

Oxfordshire Guardian

Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon

Thursday, May 3 - Wednesday, May 9, 2018

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Free

Weekly
leisure
guide for
in and
around
Oxford



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for a successful
extravaganza

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to opera
with a twist

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U's boss wields
the axe ahead
of next season

Sport

Call for public inquiry into Heathrow-sized reservoir

By George Welch

A PUBLIC inquiry has been called for into plans to build a reservoir the size of Heathrow Airport near Abingdon by 2043.

Vale of White Horse District Council is concerned that Thames Water, which is behind the plan, has not correctly followed procedures in its draft Water Resources Management Plan and has not fully explored each option in sufficient depth.

Council leader Matthew Barber said: "We are yet to be convinced that the proposed reservoir at Abingdon is necessary or indeed the most effective option to address the future water needs of the south east of England."

The Vale said it wanted to see all of Thames Water's proposals, including the implications on local residents, roads and the environment.

At 150 million-cubic metres, the proposed reservoir between Steventon and Marcham would be larger than the town of Abingdon.

The plan sets out how Thames Water intends to provide a secure and sustainable supply of water for the next 80 years.

A previous proposal was rejected by the government in 2011, when the then-secretary of state Caroline Spelman said there was 'no

immediate need'.

Cllr Barber, set to step down as leader later this month, said: "The key issue in a previous public inquiry in 2010 into Thames Water's draft plan, expressed the same concerns and we would still like to see all proposed options fully assessed to the appropriate level of detail."

Last month, Oxfordshire County Council also requested more information after questioning projections in population growth and water usage over coming decades.

The Group Against Reservoir Development (GARD) opposes the plan but the Angling Trust has expressed its support for the reservoir as it believes it could protect under-threat chalk streams.

GARD chairman Derek Stork described the consultation as a 'shambles' and vowed to put pressure on the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and environment secretary Michael Gove for a second consultation.

Thames Water did not respond to calls for a public inquiry but has previously said when making long-term plans it uses the best data available at the time and then revises plans when new data becomes available.

Consultation on its draft plan ended on Sunday.



Big opinions win at Minispeaks contest

A PRIMARY school has proved it really does know what it's talking about by winning a public speaking competition for the second year in a row.

Alice Cox, Beau Skinner and

Isabelle Ewart, pictured, scooped the award for St James CE Primary in Hanney building on last year's success.

The Minispeaks contest between nine teams of Year 6 pupils from

Vale Academy Trust primaries was held at Wantage's King Alfred's school on April 24.

The winning team said their hard work had all been worth it and that it was a "one of a kind" experience.

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Oxfordshire
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GROUP

Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot,
Oxfordshire OX11 7HR

Advertising - 01235 511700

enquiries@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Newsdesk - 01235 516931

news@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Group Editor:

Karen Neville

01235 516931

karen@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Reporters:

George Welch

01235 516919

george@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Owen Hughes

01235 516930

owen@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Samantha McGregor

sam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Josh Cox

josh@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Distribution & Subscriptions

01235 516903

distribution@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Accounts - 01235 516911

accounts@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Production - 01235 516934

studio@taylornewspapers.co.uk

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'Regulate social media' as child grooming rises

By Owen Hughes

CHILD grooming cases recorded in the Thames Valley region have quadrupled in the past year.

Thames Valley Police recorded a total of 134 instances of child grooming from April 1 2013 to December 31 2017, with 84 of those offences recorded between April and December last year.

The previous 12 months, Thames Valley recorded just 19 grooming offences, according to Home Office figures.

A new offence of Sexual Communication with a Child came into force in April 2017 and increased the recording of online grooming.

A Thames Valley Police spokesperson said: "In the Thames Valley and nationally we have seen a growing number of cases where

children and young people have been targeted by adults through popular apps and social media platforms but we know many incidents still go unreported.

"It is our priority to engage with the public to make sure children and young people are aware of the dangers of online grooming.

"Keeping children safe from harm is all of our responsibility, we rely on information from members of the public to identify crimes and keep victims safe. We are committed to tackling this issue and bringing offenders to justice."

Throughout March the force worked with NSPCC to raise awareness of child abuse as part of its 18 month Hidden Harm campaign to bring unreported abuse related crimes into the spotlight.

NSPCC launched a #WildWestWeb

campaign calling on culture secretary Matt Hancock to regulate social media with Facebook and Facebook-owned apps used in more than half of online grooming cases.

Tony Stower, NSPCC head of child safety online, said the number of reports nationally shows "the sheer scale of grooming" taking place online.

He added: "At present our government is only prepared to tackle grooming after the harm has been done, and its forthcoming Internet Safety Strategy has no plans to prevent grooming from happening in the first place.

"Culture secretary Matt Hancock could change this and bring an end to the Wild West Web.

"I urge him to bring in regulation for social networks, backed by an independent regulator with teeth."

Brexit remainers believe leaving can be stopped

CAMPAIGNERS battling Brexit in Oxford held a public panel event on Friday to review the impact of leaving the EU in the region.

Oxford for Europe's event at Oxford Town Hall drew a large audience with contributions from experts on regional Brexit issues affecting the NHS, science and rights.

People whose lives, family and work are put at risk by Brexit also gave testimonies during the event,

which was supported by European Movement (UK) Oxford Region and Oxford European Association.

Dr Mike Galsworthy of Scientist for EU said Oxford's regional science-based economy is set to suffer multiple penalties and handicaps if Brexit goes ahead.

Parliamentary adviser and University of Oxford health services expert, Dr Nick Fahy, questioned what he called the "underlying current

Brexit-driven immigration policies" which he said are crippling the NHS.

Catherine Bearder MEP spoke about the insecurity felt by millions of UK citizens living in EU countries.

Oxford research associate Dr Ruvi Ziegler said: "Brexit can be stopped if a clear public will is expressed to demand a vote on the terms, with an option to remain."

A march for a People's Vote on Brexit will take place in London on June 23.

InBrief

Murder trial collapses

A TRIAL into the alleged murder of Christopher Lemonius has collapsed and will be re-started after the jury was discharged.

Six men are charged with murdering the 27-year-old and four others are charged with perverting the course of justice in connection with his death in Blackbird Leys on June 1 last year.

Judge Ian Pringle QC sent home the jury at a hearing at Oxford Crown Court on Monday, saying the trial, which started on April 3, could not continue for legal reasons.

The trial will recommence at a date to be arranged.

Kicked in the head

A MAN in Grove was attacked with a knife and kicked in the head before escaping into a supermarket.



The 23-year-old man was walking between Cane Lane and Saville Way at around 9pm on April 16 when two men demanded to know what was in his bag before swinging an 8ins knife at him.

He fled by running into Co-op. Police have released an e-fit, above, of a man they would like to talk to.

Call police on 101 quoting 43180114675 to report any information.



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World Cup stickers with a difference

EVERYONE'S favourite artists are bidding for World Cup glory once more.

Every player from Cristiano Ronaldo to the lesser known Omar Hawsawi from Saudi Arabia will be affectionately - if a bit awkwardly - drawn.

Alex and Sian Pratchett, the self proclaimed Panini Cheapskates, are the East Oxford couple behind the homemade stickers which went viral four years ago.

The Ilffley Road couple began

drawing during the 2014 Brazil World Cup as they could not justify the cost of filling the album with official stickers.

They replicated the feat and raised £4,500 for charity by completing the Euro 2016 sticker book - with just 13 minutes to spare.

Alex and Sian will once again draw each one - 680 in total this time - during the 32-day tournament, which starts in Moscow on June 14.

Managing day jobs, a baby

and limited artistic talent means it will be difficult for the devoted duo to find the expected 170 hours needed to fill the 2018 Panini album.

It has been estimated this year's sticker book could cost nearly £800 to fill after the cost of a pack of five stickers increased from 50p to 80p.

Visit tinyurl.com/ybvbweu2 to donate to Alex and Sian's chosen charities, including Cancer Research UK and LGBT rights group Stonewall.

Group's crowning glory as funds raised to save pub

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save a south Oxfordshire pub raised their glasses in triumph after reaching their targeted fundraising total.

A pop-up event, attended by more than 120 people, was held at Hall Farm Barn, South Moreton to announce the results of a three-year campaign to save The Crown pub.

Paul Jackson, chairman of the South Moreton Community Benefit Society, thanked the 112 investors who had contributed £210,250 – or 91 per cent of the community target of £230,000.

More pledges were made at the event on April 21 and Mr Jackson confirmed the target had been met.

"This is a fantastic response by the local community," he said.

"We are all excited as this is the springboard we need to apply for grants, which we hope will make up the balance of the funds needed to buy and renovate The Crown as a community hub."

Closed and sold off by Wadworth Brewery in 2015, there are also ambitions to re-open the Crown Lane site with a shop and café.

The target is to raise £500,000 through loans and grants as well as the community donations to buy and renovate the pub.

SMCBS believe a £365,000 bid would be enough to buy the building which has a leaking roof and plumbing problems.

Visit savethecrownpub.co.uk for more information.



Full of good cheer: Second from left, Paul Jackson with other members of the South Moreton Community Benefit Society at a previous meeting

InBrief

Air show flies in

OOHS and aahs will fill the air as classic planes swoop over Abingdon this weekend.

Spectacular flying displays will take place at Abingdon Airfield on Sunday as the town's air show returns for another year.

Entertainment on the ground will include stalls, activities and static displays and is expected to attract thousands of visitors.

Visit abingdonairandcountry.co.uk for tickets and more details.

Charity break-ins

TWO Didcot charity shops were targeted in late night break-ins.

The Changing Lives charity shop and the Shaw Trust shop, both in Broadway, were broken into Friday night into Saturday morning.

The Shaw Trust had a laptop, tablet and vouchers stolen and while nothing was taken from Changing Lives, a back door was damaged.

Call police on 101 with information

Shoe store opens

DIDCOT'S £50million Orchard Centre expansion has taken a further step in the right direction with the opening of Soletrader today.

The footwear brand will occupy a 1,835 sq ft space on the site.

CEO of Soletrader Marcel Bordon said: "As a leading-edge fashion retailer, we appreciate being part of the transformation of Didcot into a contemporary destination in tune with the aspirations of its growing catchment."

■ The pedestrian access between Broadway and the shopping centre is due to open at 9am this morning.

Step in the right direction for CF drug

By Owen Hughes

WALLINGFORD parents have received a small boost in their bid to have a life-saving drug approved on the NHS.

Campaigners have been fighting to get a medicine called Orkambi available on the NHS which could slow the decline in lung function by half in cystic fibrosis patients.

Four-year-old Grace Bagley, who has CF, recently spent 16 consecutive days in hospital receiving IV treatment that might not have been necessary if Orkambi had been made available after NHS England's review in March.

But manufacturers, Vertex, were encouraged by what they heard from secretary of state for public health and primary care, Steve Brine MP, and Lord O'Shaughnessy, secretary of state

for health (Lords).

Grace's mother, Zoe Bagley said: "It feels like we're heading in the right direction but very slowly."

"I really do feel confident that it will happen, but it needs to happen quicker for the people that are waiting for it."

During Grace's stay in hospital, she had a long line inserted into a vein under sedation and had several blood tests, some waking her up through the night.

"She was terrified by some of the things being done and if she had Orkambi we could be sparing her those experiences."

Grace was eventually discharged from hospital on April 24, the day before her fourth birthday.

A Vertex spokesperson said the company is "pleased that the

government is in agreement that we urgently need to find a solution".

Vertex met NHS England on Wednesday last week to start a "meaningful dialogue", later adding that the company "had a very constructive meeting".

"Both parties recognise there is still some way to go to reach an agreement and Vertex is committed to working together to achieve this."

"We share the cystic fibrosis community's sense of urgency and have agreed to meet again in the coming weeks. There's lots of work to do on both sides ahead of this to progress discussions as quickly as possible."

A spokesperson for NHS England said: "We are not yet in a position to comment or update further on the discussions."



Terrifying experience: Grace Bagley during her 16 days in hospital last month

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Teams pull together to make town extravaganza a success

By George Welch

GET ready to flex your muscles – the beefiest tug-of-war teams from across England will pull into south Oxfordshire next month.

Competitors will need to have a strong grasp when the National Tug of War Championships comes to town as part of the Grove and Wantage Extravaganza on June 16.

Organisers pulled off a coup to host the national event, with winners set to represent England in September's World Championships in Cape Town, South Africa.

Stephen Dexter, one of the organisers, said he is delighted to secure the championships as the free community event's main attraction.

He said: "The event will be the centre piece for what is becoming a large community event and we look forward to a fascinating day of competition and fun."

Entrants will compete for gold, silver and bronze medals in men's, women's and junior weight categories. There will also be a mixed gender weight class up for grabs, with teams consisting of four men and four women each.

Tug of War Association spokesman Alan Knott said the event will provide the perfect entertainment for revellers.

He said: "Tug-of-war is



Champions: England's mixed 600kg team claim gold at a previous tournament

practiced at a serious level by our competitors, and while being amateurs, a lot of training and practice is required to be successful, that will be evident when people come along to watch the event.

"We will have teams that have won world and European championship medals taking part at the event, which should make for a very exciting championship."

The Grove and Wantage

Extravaganza, re-established in 2016 after a four-year hiatus, will provide fun and entertainment to suit all ages for its third edition, hosted at Grove Recreation Ground.

Other attractions include a fun fair, climbing wall, dog show, a dog and duck show, music from local choirs and bands, a children's rugby demonstration, clog dancing and Morris dancing as well as other stalls and activities.

A hot air balloon demonstration will take place in the evening if the weather permits.

Anybody wishing to take part should contact Mr Dexter on 01235 766 184 or email stephendexter@btinternet.com.

InBrief

Driver dies in crash

AN elderly man has died after his car collided with a tractor and a trailer near Wantage.

His white Vauxhall collided with a green tractor and its yellow trailer on the A338 between Wantage and Fawley at about 9.15pm on April 18.

Investigating officer PC Linzi Turner said the incident was 'tragic' and has appealed for witnesses.

Contact police on 101 quoting reference 1592 (18/4) with information.

Cars vandalised

THREE men and a teenage boy have been arrested after vandals walked through Abingdon and vandalised 30 parked cars.

The incidents happened at around 12.45am on April 22 on Victoria Road and Park Road.

Two of the men arrested, both 18, are from Abingdon. The other man, 20, is from Benson. A 16-year-old boy from Abingdon was also arrested.

They have all been released under investigation.

Call police on 101 quoting reference 43180120063 with information.

Mayor making

ABINGDON'S annual meeting and mayor making will take place at St Helen's Church on May 9 from 7pm with refreshments available at the end. It will mark the changeover between current mayor Jan Morter and her successor Margaret Crick.

Appeal to find attacker, nearly a year on

CCTV images of a battered teenager have been released as police continue to hunt the culprit behind an 'unprovoked' attack in Henley last year.

The victim, an 18-year-old man, was at Magoos Bar in Hart Street at around 1.30am on Sunday, June 18 when he was attacked by an unknown man.

The attacker assaulted the teen, striking his head down onto a table before fleeing, causing a deep scar, which could have been much worse.

The victim, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "I needed an X-ray to check there



Appeal for help: The 18-year-old man sustained multiple injuries in the unprovoked attack in Henley in June last year

was no glass still in the wounds before the stitches could be put in.

"It's scary to see how close the glass was to my eye – just millimetres either way and I could

have lost my sight.

"If anyone in Magoos that night saw what happened, or has heard anything about who might have attacked me please tell the police."

This is the third appeal Thames Valley Police have released in relation to this attack.

Investigating officer PC Emma Bailey urged the offender to 'do the right thing' and hand himself in.

She added: "This was an unprovoked attack which caused significant injuries...these images show the lasting impact of the injury caused."

Contact police on 101 with information.

Police increase patrols as burglaries linked

OFFICERS are going door-to-door in Didcot as police step up patrols after burglars smashed their way into two homes.

Thames Valley Police say they are linking the incidents, both in the Northbourne area of the town, in which games consoles and jewellery were stolen.

Offenders broke windows to enter the two properties between 11.30am and 7pm on April 19.

Police are also linking an attempted burglary in the same

area to the incidents.

Offenders tried to break panels in a door between 3.30pm on April 18 and 7am on April 19.

Police are appealing for anyone with information to come forward but have not released the names of roads targeted.

Investigating officer DC Daniel Tibble, based at Abingdon police station, said: "We are currently conducting door-to-door enquiries and residents can expect to see more of our officers in the area."

"I would like to remind the public to remain vigilant when doors and windows are left open."

"Anything left within easy reach of these may be taken by opportunistic burglars."

Contact police on 101 quoting reference number 43180117811 with information about any of the incidents.

The Force also urged people to visit tinyurl.com/y9ftxm9f for more information on how to secure homes.

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News



Fun for fantasy fans

WINTER came to South Oxfordshire on Saturday as white walkers roamed the corridors of Abingdon and Witney College.

The inaugural Thames Con featured fantasy fans dressed as their favourite heroes and villains from TV and film, including blockbuster series Game of Thrones.

Stormtroopers, Batman and even Pennywise the Clown from Stephen King's IT could be found wandering the campus surrounded by

stalls selling memorabilia and artwork.

Actors from Game of Thrones held a Q&A, while Robert Llewellyn and Danny John-Jules revealed there will be a 13th series of sci-fi sitcom Red Dwarf.

Headliner Sir Tony Robinson reunited the cast of his BBC comedy series Maid Marian and Her Merry Men for the first time in more than 25 years.

Adam Morris, who played Robin Hood in the children's show, said: "I haven't seen the

rest of the gang really since the mid nineties.

"This weekend is not only great for the fans to meet us in person, it was also a chance for us to catch up with old friends and reminisce about those muddy days back at the hideout in Sherwood Forest."

Creative director Sarah Williamson said: "We are thrilled with how the first Thames Con event has gone, and are bowled over by all the amazing feedback we're getting from those who came."

Delivery driver hurt as vehicle overturns

AN Asda driver made an unexpected delivery when their van overturned during rush hour traffic.

The van was toppled on the A415 near Witney after colliding with another vehicle at around 5pm on Friday.

Fire crews cut one of the occupants free using specialist hydraulic cutting equipment and was taken to hospital.

Emergency services have not revealed details of the other vehicle involved or how seriously the person was injured.

Thames Valley Police are investigating the cause of the collision.



Crew Manager Chris Rowe said: "Crews worked along with ambulance services to release the

casualties from the vehicle. We urge drivers to take care in wet weather conditions on the roads."

Gas main works set to affect road for 19 weeks

ROADWORKS scheduled to last for 19 weeks have started on one of the busiest roads in east Oxford.

Southern Gas Networks (SGN) is replacing old gas mains and services under Cowley Road.

The £250,000 project began at the junction with Marsh Road on Monday and temporary traffic

lights are in place.

Work will be suspended from June 29 to July 2 for the annual Cowley Carnival to take place.

The project is expected to be finished in September.

Meanwhile, Oxfordshire County Council has confirmed a £650,000 project to repair and improve

parts of a major route into the city will start next week.

Work will get under way between Oakthorpe Road and Moreton Road – a stretch that is suffering from a failing road surface – on Tuesday.

This work is expected to take 10 weeks to complete.



Characters and costumes: Right, Sir Tony Robinson chatted with fans, while many came dressed up as their favourite stars



Police officer faked injury to sun himself in Majorca

By George Welch

A DISGRACED police officer who feigned injury to holiday in Majorca has been sacked.

Nicholas Corbett, based at Thames Valley Police's Kidlington headquarters, lost his job after his superiors discovered he had lied about why he failed to turn up to work.

He claimed he struggled to ride a bike and could not fly on plane journeys longer than 90 minutes due to a back injury caused by a crash in 2014.

On October 13 last year Mr Corbett failed to make his shift, prompting his inspector to text him asking where he

was. Mr Corbett responded saying he was unable to go to work due to his back injury when he was actually sunning it up in Spain.

In a statement, TVP suggested they were tipped off by information on Strava, an app that tracks users' athletic activity via satellite navigation.

The Force did not say specifically how he was caught but did state: "After the holiday, Mr Corbett then deleted his Strava account."

Mr Corbett resigned before last week's hearing, during which it was confirmed his actions amounted to gross misconduct and breached standards of professional behaviour

concerning honesty and integrity.

The panel concluded Mr Corbett would have been dismissed had he not resigned. His details will be placed on the College of Policing's Barred List.

Detective Chief Superintendent Chris Ward, head of the professional standards department, said: "I am sure most of TVP would agree that there is no room in this organisation for somebody who behaves as this former officer has."

"Thankfully the vast majority of our staff are hardworking and dedicated. Where we become aware of someone behaving in this way we will be relentless in carrying out a thorough investigation."

Shopkeeper conned by alcohol-selling fraudster

A FRAUDSTER conned an Eynsham shopkeeper out of cash after posing as someone selling alcohol.

Police said the thief approached a business owner in the west Oxfordshire village, claiming he was closing down his own business and was selling surplus alcohol stock.

The victim agreed a sale and handed over the cash. He understood the seller was going outside to collect the stock from a van and bring it in.

Instead he fled with the cash in a black convertible car.

Thames Valley Police have released a CCTV image of a man who could have 'vital information' about the incident which happened on Thursday, April 19 between 3.15pm and 3.30pm.

Officers did not confirm which shop was targeted or how much was stolen.

Contact police on 101 quoting reference number 43180126627 with information.



CCTV: Police want to speak to this man in connection with the fraud

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College engineers new high-tech training hub

By George Welch

OXFORDSHIRE MP Layla Moran was 'blown away' when she officially opened a new state-of-the-art engineering and technology training hub.

Ms Moran, MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, was all smiles when she joined a host of local dignitaries, employers and senior management at the Abingdon and Witney College launch event.

The £4million high-tech Advanced Skills Centre hub, based on the Abingdon campus in Wootton Road, aims to develop the engineering and technology skills of the area.

Guests were treated to interactive activities and displays showcasing the innovative technology at the new centre.

The college also officially received its Beacon Award which it won in November 2017 recognising its teaching and learning.

College Principal Di Batchelor said: "The guests were clearly impressed with not only our fantastic new building, but also the innovative and engaging activities put together by our dedicated teachers and students."

"We consider ourselves very lucky to be able to continue to invest in our



Skills centre: West Oxford and Abingdon MP Layla Moran and Abingdon & Witney College principal Di Batchelor with the official opening plaque and left, Ms Moran and fellow guests enjoy challenging one of the robots in the engineering workshop

facilities and hopefully the Beacon Award is one element shining a light on our hard-working teams and their successes."

Completed in January, the new engineering technology site was funded through the 2014 Oxfordshire Growth Deal.

House raided in crackdown

ARMED police raided a Wantage home as part of an ongoing crackdown on drugs across the county.

Thames Valley Police tweeted pictures of officers equipped with helmets and shields on Springfield Road, and using a battering ram to pound their way inside.

The Force would not confirm if drugs had been seized – but said unspecified 'items' had been confiscated by officers following the raid on Wednesday morning last week.

No arrests were made.

There has been a police crackdown on drugs in recent months as part of TVP's Stronghold campaign which targets organised crime which is generally drug-related.

In recent months there have been raids on addresses in Blackbird Leys, Banbury and Abingdon.



Raid: Armed police used a battering ram to get into a house in Wantage

Trial for coaches dropping off

A PARKING warden has been stationed on a major street in Oxford city centre to ensure coaches obey the drop-off rules.

Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council have agreed to fund a four-month trial which will see a civil enforcement officer stationed in the St Giles coach area for eight hours a day.

Tourist coaches are supposed to park at Redbridge Park and Ride after dropping visitors on St Giles, but this system 'does not always work', the

councils said.

The officer will enforce collection point rules and collect information, such as arrival times, routes in and out of the city and the operators, as the two councils figure out a long-term solution for tourist coach parking.

Tim Sadler, executive director for Sustainable City, said the authorities wanted to ensure tourism did not damage Oxford.

The civil enforcement officer is being stationed on St Giles between 10am and 6pm each day.

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Ice hockey player gets big break

Doctors came to see x-rays of injured hand 'hanging by a thread'

By George Welch

AN Oxford City Stars player needed more than an ice pack after breaking his wrist so badly that his hand and arm were connected by a single bone.

Jason Ikin's left hand was left hanging by a thread after trying to sidestep an opponent who was hurtling towards him.

The university student's wrist got caught between his hockey stick and the other player's body and he was left with multiple fractures, snapped ligaments and tendons and damage to his nerves.

Despite the extent of his injuries, Mr Ikin, who is currently having physiotherapy, says he cannot wait to get back on the ice later this year.

The 20-year-old, who started playing ice hockey in 2005, said: "On the day of the accident, I passed to a line mate and saw that an opposition player was coming towards me.

"I went to sidestep him but my wrist got caught between my opponent's body and my hockey stick.

"I felt my wrist break and immediately put my hand to it but there was so much adrenaline because the sport is so fast paced and it kicked in so I didn't really feel any pain until I got to the emergency department.



Ouch: Jason Ikin hopes to be back on the ice later this year after his horrific hand injury heals with the help of physiotherapy

"My first thought when I fell was 'can I keep playing?' I just wanted to keep playing but I was taken off the ice and my wrist was stabilised in hospital."

Mr Ikin underwent a four-and-a-half hour operation in which surgeons put in screws, pins and wires to repair his wrist.

The operation left the sportsman with 'too many stitches too count', a four inch scar on the top of his wrist,

and a three inch scar on the bottom.

He spent eight days in hospital following the accident, which happened in a match against Kent side Invicta Mustangs in February.

Mr Ikin, who needs another six months to recover, added: "A lot of my team-mates think it's pretty cool. You don't normally see an injury like this so a lot of doctors came to see me while I was in hospital and have a look at the x-rays."



InBrief

Motorcycle crash

TWO specialist police officers tasked with guarding nuclear sites were injured in a crash.

Police said the vehicle the officers were driving was in a collision with a motorbike at around 3.30pm on Saturday last week on the A417 at Rowstock, near Didcot.

The rider of the motorcycle, a man in his 40s, was taken to hospital with serious but non-life threatening injuries and the officers received minor injuries.

The unnamed officers work for the Civil Nuclear Constabulary, a specialist armed police service dedicated to protecting the civil nuclear industry.

The CNC, which protects 14 civil nuclear sites, safeguards nuclear material in transit and plays a key role in national security.

Call 101 quoting 996 21/04/2018 with any information that may help.

More train seats

RAIL passengers can enjoy more than 18,000 extra seats being provided on Chiltern Railway services during this May bank holiday weekend.

The rail provider has announced the extra 18,754 seats in response to planned improvement works to the new Elizabeth line.

As the Chiltern Railway services will be the main route to London over the weekend for Oxford passengers it has expanded its capacity.

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News

Good enough to eat!

By George Welch

THESE stunning pictures caught by Oxfordshire-based photographers featured among a catalogue of the world's best food photos.

Watlington-based Mark Lord and Thame's Deb Porter were both highly commended for their submissions in the Food Photographer of the Year 2018 competition.

Mark's striking image of a cow taking a moment away from her breakfast on a frosty morning in the Chiltern Hills was praised in the food in the field category.

Explaining the photograph, he said: "The English Longhorn is one of our oldest breeds and they are highly regarded for their meat."

"This organically reared, pasture fed longhorn cow takes a moment from her breakfast to observe the intruder in her midst on this frosty morning in the Chiltern Hills."

Andy Macdonald, from Pink Lady, a sponsor of the awards, said: "The competition was fierce. There were 8,000 images entered from 60 countries and the standard was exceptional."

"Mark's shot stood out from the rest, however, for the way in which he made the subject matter so striking and distinctive."

Deb also impressed in the Marks & Spencer food adventures category for her Meat Feast image and in the food



Happy Birthday Mum
by Deb Porter

for celebration category for Happy Birthday Mum.

Meat Feast was taken at the Thame Food Festival, which she said smelt

'incredible' while Happy Birthday Mum is of her mother's 85th birthday and homemade carrot cake complete with candles.



Meat Feast by Deb Porter



The Matriarch by
Mark Lord Photography



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Thousands enjoy classic cars

By Owen Hughes

CLASSIC cars packed out the former RAF Bicester welcoming a record number of visitors to the Sunday Scramble last month.

More than 6,000 enthusiasts visited the second Sunday Scramble of the year with more than 1,000 historic classic cars on show on April 22.

The hub for motoring excellence, Bicester Heritage, unlocked the doors to the public at the former World War II RAF Bomber Training Station.

Vehicles ranging from veteran and vintage cars up to 2017 and 2010 Formula One race cars were on display.

Nick English, co-founder of the official timing partner Bremont, flew in for the event in his 1950s Broussard.

Bicester Heritage managing director Dan Geoghegan said: "Sunday's Scramble was the best yet – a fitting milestone for Bicester Heritage's fifth anniversary.

"Not only were we able to welcome over 6,000 enthusiasts and more than 1,000 classic vehicles on Drive It Day, but also the latest new specialists and partners.

"Above all else, the atmosphere was both laid back and inclusive; thank you to all who joined us."

The next Bicester Heritage Sunday Scramble will take place on October 7.



All pictures: Auto House London



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Criminal record checks problem blamed on IT

AN IT issue has been blamed for 'inaccurate' record checks at an Oxfordshire authority.

Oxfordshire County Council failed to properly document criminal record checks on its staff, according to an official audit published last week.

In the cases scrutinised, 67 per cent of staff did not have up-to-date Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

The audit, carried out in February, said the three-yearly DBS checks had not been routinely undertaken by all managers and blamed a fault in the IT system that failed on a 'very ad-hoc basis'. As a result of the 'significant inaccuracies', the council was "unable to effectively monitor whether staff have up-to-date DBS checks or not," the report added.

The council said its human resources team was now checking all records and that 'robust systems' are now in place to check the criminal records of all new employees.

An OCC spokesperson stressed that all relevant staff continue to be given the correct checks and the problem related to record-keeping processes.

They added: "As soon as the issue with the recording system was identified we worked hard to resolve it. The system fault has been fixed and regular checks are being carried out to ensure data is now being uploaded properly to employee records."



Sponsorship deal: Thame Players chairman Pat Shepherd and Rectory Homes founder and chief executive Simon Vickers

Developer plays role in am dram future

A SOUTH Oxfordshire amateur theatre group has received another funding boost after a developer renewed its sponsorship for a fourth year.

Thame Players, also a charity, has been staging high-quality productions for almost 75 years.

Haddenham-based developers Rectory Homes has sponsored the group, run by volunteers, for the last three years and the latest

funding of £10,000 will focus on two areas of improvement.

One will help improve the Nelson Street theatre, based at a former church hall, by installing a new internal acoustic door, redesigning the theatre frontage and enhancing the side access.

The other strand relates to creative development and enriching productions through special effects, lighting and hiring

of costumes.

Thame Players chairman Pat Shepherd said: "Rectory's support, advice and encouragement are tremendously valued and, by sponsoring Thame Players, they are also contributing to the diversity of arts and entertainment in Thame."

Simon Vickers, founder and chief executive of Rectory Homes, described Thame Players as 'a gem of an asset' to the town.

InBrief

Name your champion

STAGECOACH in Oxfordshire is inviting passengers to nominate their favourite member of staff for the Customer Service Champions Award.

This is the ninth year of the company's annual awards which recognise staff achievements in a number of categories including safety, environment, health, innovation, community and customer service.

All employees nominated will be in with a chance of winning a gold, silver or bronze champions award along with a cash prize.

Customers who nominate a winning employee will also receive a cash prize.

The awards are open to staff across Stagecoach's bus and rail operations in the UK and North America.

Nominations can be made by visiting stagecoachbus.com or emailing champions@stagecoachgroup.com before the May 25 deadline.

Trustees needed

DIDCOT Railway Centre is appealing for new trustees to join its board.

Overseeing how the popular tourist attraction is run, interested volunteers should have experience in fundraising, marketing, human resources and museum and volunteer management are particularly needed.

Trustees meet four or five times a year and take a leading role in increasing the popularity of the site.

Apply at didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk before the May 25 deadline.

Inspectors shocked by rise in animal cruelty

By George Welch

ANIMAL health inspectors investigate almost four new cruelty cases a day as new figures reveal the level of animal cruelty has risen in Oxfordshire.

Shocking figures released by the RSPCA last week show the charity received 1,326 complaints in 2017, up from 1,299 the previous year.

Cases brought to justice by the animal charity in the county last year included a man and a woman who were disqualified from keeping dogs for 10 years after their dog was left to starve in a squalid outhouse.

Barney Bloom and his partner Jemma Bloom, of Hudson Street, Bicester, were sentenced to 12 weeks in custody and eight weeks suspended for a year respectively for their treatment of Hooch.

Inspector Lauren Bailey said: "When I first saw Hooch he was at the police station and I was moved by how loving he was.

"He was so skinny, dirty, and neglected but had so much time for everyone he met.

"It was heartbreaking to see a dog that had not been shown any love himself still offer love unconditionally to others.

"He had sadly been left without



Neglected: Hooch's owners were prosecuted after he was left to starve food and water in a dirty outhouse. He was very underweight with all his ribs showing.

"The neglect he experienced could have been easily avoided but he was simply left to suffer without the care he needed and deserved."

Other cases of cruelty in Oxfordshire included a hamster that was found covered in cigarette burns with stones stuffed in his mouth in Witney and a dead terrier who was dumped in a bag in Banbury.

In Oxford, a cat had to have his

leg amputated after being found hanging from a 15ft tree with a trap attached to his leg.

Rob Hartley, chief inspector for Oxford, said: "It is shocking to see the cruelty suffered by animals at the hands of heartless people with no care for the welfare of animals.

"While it is saddening to think there are so many animals in need of our help we are very grateful to everyone who takes the time to raise concerns."

Nationally, the RSPCA investigated 141,760 complaints last year.

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News

InBrief

Dodo shot in head

THE world's most famous example of an extinct bird was shot in the head, research has found.

Forensic analysis of its skull found lead shot pellets, suggesting the Oxford Dodo was shot in the neck and back of the head with a shotgun.

The most complete remains of a dodo – a head and a foot – are held at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

Humanist archive

A PILOT scheme in Oxford for an archive of tributes to deceased humanists has proved so successful the scheme has been rolled out nationwide.

The project, piloted by Oxfordshire Humanist Funeral Celebrant Ian Willox, immortalised the life stories of Humanist UK members.

Mr Willox said: "It's the ordinary life stories that are often lost and forgotten in time, but they are probably the most important element of the archive."

Uni loses to rivals

OXFORD has been beaten to the top of a prestigious UK universities league table by arch rival Cambridge – for the eighth consecutive year.

The Complete University Guide 2019, one of a number of well-regarded league tables, has not ranked Oxford as the best since 2011.

Oxford was deemed the country's best university last year by The Times Higher Education ranking.

Charity of the year 2018 – Helen & Douglas House

Polo tournament raises funds to give thanks for amazing support

By George Welch

FUNDRAISERS were chomping at the bit to support Helen & Douglas House at a spectacular polo tournament.

Adam Walter, 26, from Northampton raised more than £1,000 for the hospice care charity in memory of his sister Charlotte at a special tournament fundraiser.

Mallets crossed in The Charlotte Trophy on February 3 at the Dallas Burston Polo Club in Southam Warwickshire, where Adam works, sponsored by the Walter family.

A ticketed afternoon tea VIP package and a raffle raised £507, adding to a donation of £500 from IXL Events to bring the total to £1,007.

Helen & Douglas House cared for Adam's sister Charlotte, known as Charlie, who had severe muscle wasting disease Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), from the age of four.

Charlotte was 18 when she passed away in 2013. Her family were supported by Helen & Douglas House with bereavement counselling after she died.

Adam said: "My sister was so brave and persistent. My family were all

so excited to be able to be a part of celebrating the life of my sister and recognise that Helen & Douglas House was a big part of our family.

"IXL Events, my employers, have also noticed now much the charity means to me as an employee.

"Helen & Douglas House has given amazing support to our family including respite care for my sister and our family.

"My sister used to live by the motto 'until I try, I'll never know' – she managed to try as much as she could with the help and the hope that Helen & Douglas House provided."

Staying at the hospice allowed Charlotte to make new friends and helped her embrace life rather than shy away and helped the family stay together.

Adam added: "Helen & Douglas House meant so much to her and that is where she demanded to go in her last weeks."

Adam and Dallas Burston Polo Club are hoping to make The Charlotte



Fundraiser: Operations director at the club Major Richard Carney, Fred, Sue and Adam Walter and Suzanne Carney at Dallas Burston Polo Club and inset, Charlotte

Trophy an annual event.

If you would like to help terminally ill young people like Charlotte and her family, you can make a donation or organise a fundraiser by going to www.hdh.org.uk or calling 01865 799150.



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Two flee severely fire-damaged house

QUICK-THINKING residents escaped serious injury after the entire first floor of a Banbury home was 'severely' damaged by fire.

Fire crews arrived at the Hearthway property shortly before 7pm on Wednesday last week to find the two occupants had already evacuated and were stood on the pavement.

Smoke alarms on the landing alerted the pair and they quickly fled to safety.

Firefighters found the entire

first floor completely smoke logged and a fire in one of the bedrooms.

Crews from Banbury and Hook Norton fire stations quickly extinguished the blaze.

A high-pressure fan was needed to blow all of the smoke out of the smoke-logged building.

Paramedics from South Central Ambulance Service were also called but the two occupants were unharmed.

Specialist fire officers are investigating the cause.

A fire service spokesperson

said: "Thankfully the occupiers of this property were alerted by working smoke alarms and were able to vacate the property in good time.

"Unfortunately the doors were left open and that is why the entire first floor has been severely affected by the smoke and flames."

He added: "I would like to advise everyone to formulate an emergency plan, considering the actions that they will take if they are unfortunate enough to suffer a fire in their home."

Shortlisted for support given to amputees

A PAIR of talented student nurses have been nominated for the UK's most prestigious nursing accolade.

Oxford Brookes University duo Raluca Vagner and Pedro Faria Simas are finalists in the Andrew Parker Student Nurse section of the 2018 RCNi Nurse Awards.

They were shortlisted for providing non-trauma amputees with emotional support – on top of their existing medical degree workload.

The awards recognise those who, every day, go above and beyond to save lives, provide outstanding care for patients and/or transform nursing practice for the better.

RCNi managing director



Award nomination: Student nurses Pedro Faria Simas and Raluca Vagner

Rachel Armitage said Raluca and Pedro were voted for as finalists by judges due to "the impact they have had on information and support access of amputees."

She added: "With the nursing shortage high on the national agenda, it's important that we give nurses like Raluca and Pedro

the recognition they deserve, and we look forward to celebrating their work at the awards in July."

The hunt for Britain's nursing heroes started in December 2017, led by Good Morning Britain presenter Kate Garraway, and will culminate in an awards ceremony on July 4 in London.

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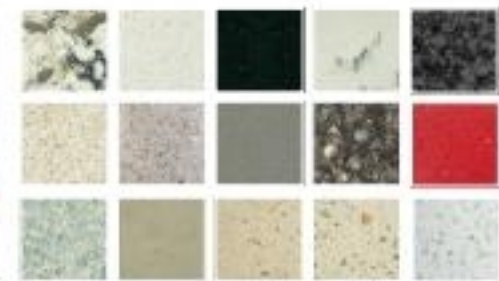
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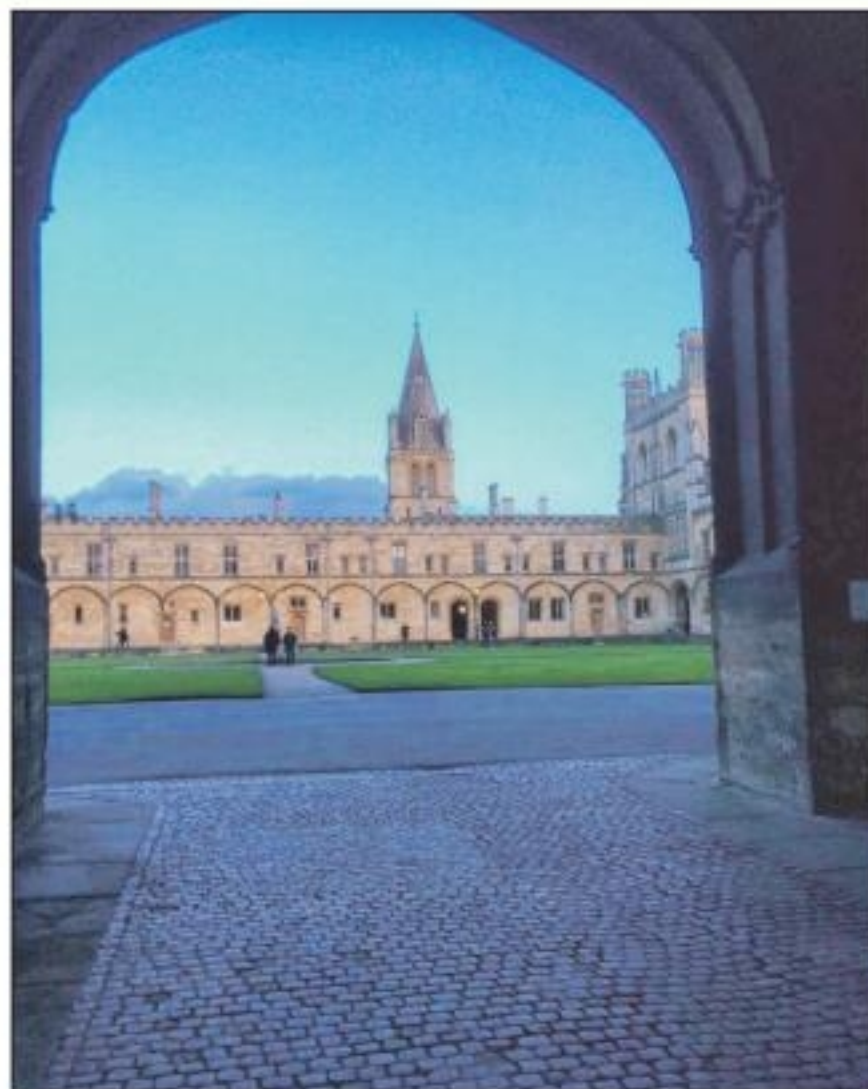
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News



Images of Oxford: Clockwise, top left, from @abbas098; above, from @sepps55; above right, from @fievans; below, from @betty_and_barnaby and far left, from @terrificalllytori

Oxford from the train

IF you've ever looked out of a train window and thought a particular view would make a great photograph then take a look at some of these images.

These stunning pictures are the results of a photography competition to capture

destinations along routes served by Great Western Railway including Oxford, some of which are featured here.

Passengers were invited to take photos and submit them for the #GWRAdventures competition which ran to celebrate English

tourism from March 12 to April 8.

Four weekly winners were chosen from the pictures entered with the winners claiming a pair of first class return train tickets.

Travellers took photographs of destinations such as Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter.

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Discover the very best of care in Banbury

Highmarket House care home is an oasis of calm tucked out of the way on North Bar Place, behind The Cromwell, in Banbury.

Residents at Highmarket House enjoy the very best lifestyle, thanks to luxury facilities, superb activities, great food and the very best care. And with the town's shops and cafés just around the corner, it's the perfect place for people who like to keep busy and involved in the community.

Peace of mind

John and Joan, married 66 years, live together at the home. John says, "Being Joan's carer and doing all the cooking, cleaning and washing,

it became too much for me. Our son chose the home – he felt it had the best atmosphere, and the team were friendly and cheerful. I feel very relieved and more relaxed now."

Joan says, "We've really settled in, and have a lounge, bedroom and an en suite. We enjoy the activities so we're always busy. The food is jolly good too and both of us have put on some weight!"

Getting out and about

Bob, who is on a short stay, admits that he was initially reluctant about the idea of a care home. "But as soon as I walked through the door I knew it was right for me," he says. "The facilities, the staff, the food, my room are all very good, like a five-star hotel."

"The home is so close to town that I go out most days to meet friends. I've also made friends here and we go on trips. Many people don't realise this 'five star' home is here".



Highmarket House provides high quality care services, ranging from short term respite care, to residential care and care for people who are living with dementia.

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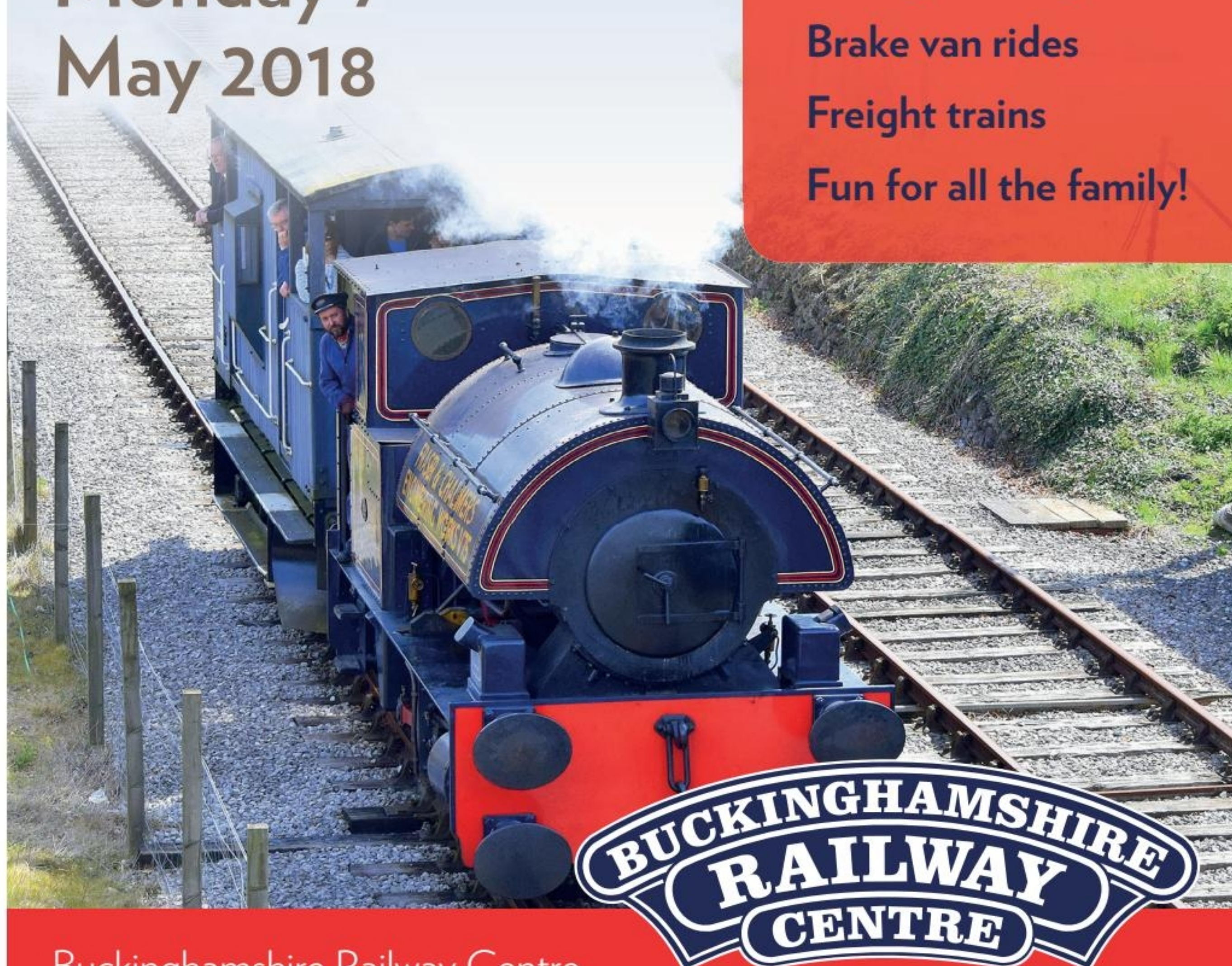
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Out & About

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Sun Records show live at New Theatre



*Beautiful story
of singer's life*



*World-famous violinist
makes Abbey appearance*



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Out About

A whole lotta shakin' set to go on

By Josh Cox

RECOGNISED worldwide as the birthplace of rock 'n' roll, Sun Records in Memphis, Tennessee, is famed for discovering the pioneers, namely Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash and Roy Orbison.

The story of Sun Records has been the subject of TV documentaries, books and even stage shows. However, the only way to capture the ground breaking music that emanated from the famed recording studio is with a live concert dedicated to the artists who helped put it on the map.

Officially endorsed and licensed by the Sun Records Corporation, the brand-new Sun Records Concert Show has embarked on a UK-wide tour and is coming to The New Theatre in Oxford on July 14.

"During the Fifties, the trailblazing Sun studio created the songs that became the template of rock 'n' roll," says producer of the show, Pete Tobit.

He said: "That's Alright Mama, Great Balls of Fire, I Walk the Line, Whole Lotta Shakin', Blue Suede Shoes and Good Rockin' Tonight were all original Sun recordings."

"Musical visionary Sam Phillips crafted the distinctive sound we know and love today from gospel, blues, hillbilly, country, boogie and



western swing.

"The Sun Records Concert Show takes the audience right inside the studio where the magic happened and lets the music do the talking."

The fast-moving production has been rehearsed in an exact replica of the Sun Recording studios. It features the original musical instruments of the era and alongside a

youthful cast of consummate musicians.

John Singleton, president of the Sun Entertainment Corporation said: "From the record label that invented rock 'n' roll, The Sun Records Concert Show is the only production officially endorsed by Sun Records."

"Sam Phillips' recorded the 'perfect imperfection' of music. . .

how songs were meant to sound live on stage. The Sun Records Concert Show captures that perfect imperfection perfectly – in a two-hour spectacular that'll leave you calling out for more!"

Ticket prices start from £22 and are available from the box office on 0844 871 3020 or by visiting atgtickets.com.

On stage

Cornerstone shows

Didcot's Cornerstone has a variety of entertainment to enjoy during May including dance and theatre.

Contemporary dance company The Vanquished perform on May 12, family show Keepy Uppy celebrates the upcoming World Cup on May 13, science and theatre combine in 12 Million Volts on May 17 and emotive choreography will fill A Dolls House on May 23.

For details go to cornerstone-arts.org

Early heads up for the centre's beer and music festival which this year will take place from August 3 to 5.

Join the movement

Tap Social Movement in North Hinksey will come alive as Radio Generation put on a free gig on May 12.

The band play a mix of genres from pop to new wave and cover the likes of David Bowie, Iggy Pop, Tom Petty and Dr Feelgood just to name a few.

Radio Generation will play from 8pm.

Breaking through

The Stratospheres, an indie pop and rock group will be playing at O'Neill's in Oxford on May 18.

Performing together since 2006, the band have developed a repertoire of more than 70 songs from 50's pop to the latest chart anthems.

The free gig starts at 9pm.

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Beautiful story of Carole's life

By Samantha McGregor

AWARD-WINNING show Beautiful, the musical telling the life story of Carole King, stops off in Oxford next month as part of its UK tour.

The show opens its doors at the New Theatre from May 8 to 12.

Brontë Barbé, who was a finalist in Andrew Lloyd Webber's BBC1 television series Over The Rainbow in 2010, plays the lead role of Carole King.

The musical tells the story of King's remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit song-writing team with her husband Gerry Goffin played by Kane Oliver Parry, her relationship with fellow writers to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history.

Along the way, she wrote one of the best-selling albums of all time, Tapestry, as well as countless classics such as (You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman, Take Good Care of My Baby, You've Got a Friend, So Far Away, It Might as Well Rain Until September, Up on the Roof and The Locomotion.

Ahead of the show Brontë took time out to chat about what she was enjoying most about playing Carole King.

She said: "The songs. The music is amazing; it's just the best."

"I haven't played a part like this in my career so far."

"I also love how everyone in the



Picture: Craig Sugden

company on tour with us is so nice; it's a big family feel, which is lovely."

Brontë bought Tapestry when she was younger after a recommendation from her mum, but it was only when she became involved with the show that she realised just how many tunes had been penned by King.

Less familiar to many is King's life story.

Brontë says the story is perfect for the stage because it's "so relatable".

She said: "Everybody knows a Carole essentially, or is a Carole maybe and wants things she

wanted – like to have a family and be successful in her career."

"She never set out to become famous but her talent and ambition meant that whilst she might be quite ordinary in some ways, she has an extraordinary story. There's a big draw to it."

"This is absolutely a dream role, being able to play Carole King every night and sing her songs."

Tickets available from the New Theatre box office in George Street, call 0844 871 3020 or view atgtickets.com/oxford



SYDNEY-based quartet PLANET are set to perform in Oxford as part of their international UK and European tour.

The band have recently completed their colourful new video for single Save. Sold and are due to release their forthcoming EP early this month.

They will take to the stage at Oxford's O2 Academy on May 10, alongside DMA.

PLANET is the culmination of several years' trial and error in songcraft, performance and production.

Made up of Matty Took, vocals and rhythm, Tom Peppitt on lead guitar, Harrison Stewart-Weeks on drums and Jimmy Weaver on bass, the band draw influences from past and present combining pop laden guitar

hooks with soaring vocal melodies to create a sound which is reminiscent of Britpop.

Asked what fans can expect from the gig, Tom said: "They can definitely expect something different to lying down in bed at home and chucking the songs on through the speakers."

"It's important to refine your live sound separately to the sound on the records, if we didn't do that then what would be the point in going to see live music."

"We've never actually travelled overseas at all as a band, this will be our first trip and we're definitely buzzing for it."

"It's also my first time over there so I'm ticking two boxes on this one."

For more information or tickets view o2academy/oxford

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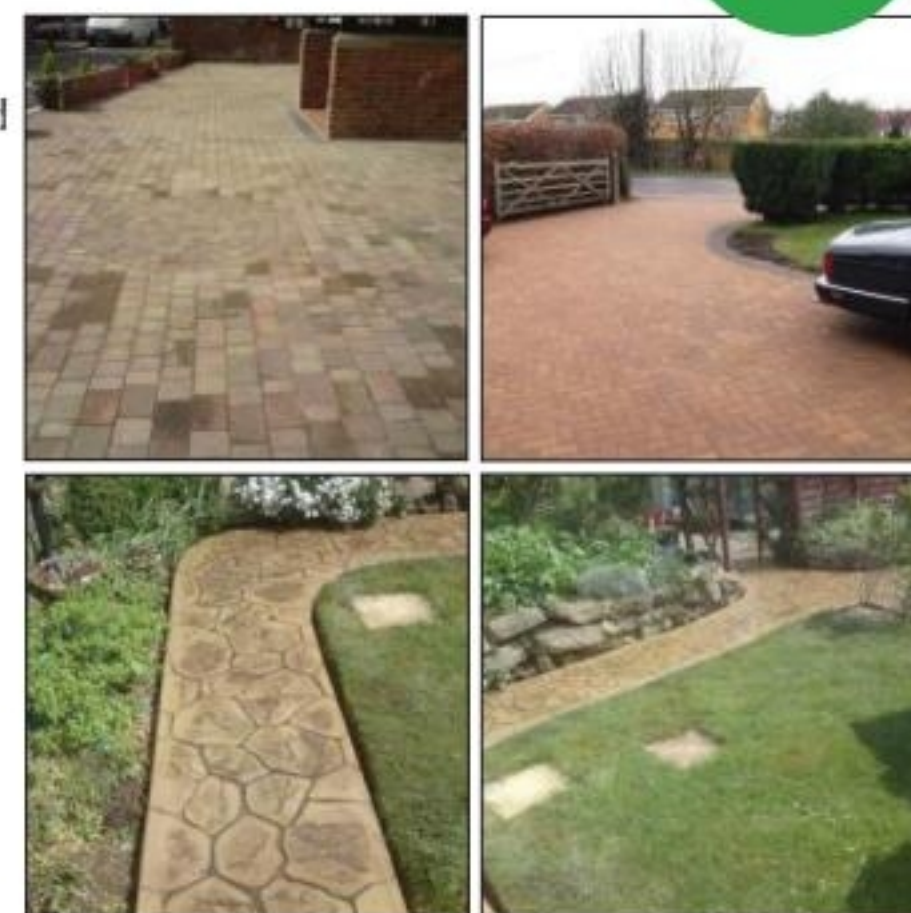
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Out About

Ancient music in the Abbey



Main picture: Patrick Harrison
Inset picture: Simon Fowler

OXFORDSHIRE'S Dorchester Abbey will light up as the world renowned Academy of Ancient Music (AAM) gives a special concert with the acclaimed violinist Nicola Benedetti.

Marking the 250th anniversary of Telemann's death, the orchestra welcomes Benedetti, pictured, who joins musical director Richard Egarr and AAM for the first time on May 30.

Nicola will cover Telemann's Frogs concerto, where the violins and violas imitate a chorus of croaking amphibians, and Vivaldi's sizzling Il Grosso Mogul where solo and orchestral parts mesh together in a feast of virtuosity.

Benedetti will be playing her violin with gut strings as she has described them as having a more 'human'

sound than that offered by their modern counterparts.

The concert will also feature Telemann's Concerto for Four Violins, where soloists from AAM join Nicola.

The AAM's recently appointed new leader, Bojan Čičić is honoured to be given the post.

He said: "Over the past five years in which I have worked as a principal player, the orchestra has become very much like a family."

"I believe we have formed friendships that will last a lifetime and I look forward to giving my utmost to continue making the best possible music for AAM's global audience."

Bojan is known for his intelligent and virtuosic playing on both the violin and viola d'amore. He special-

ises in symphonies ranging from the late 16th century to the Romantic period.

Čičić has a wealth of experience and has also been a director of the European Union Baroque Orchestra and a guest leader and soloist with the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century.

The AAM is a period-instrument orchestra from Cambridge, which was founded in 1973 with 2018 being their 45th anniversary.

The concert begins at 7.30pm. Admission prices start from £18. To book, either call 01865 340007 or head to chilternarts.com



Picture: Kate Depict



The doctor will see you now

A new dark comic show will be landing at the Cornerstone in Didcot this month.

Freely adapted from the works of Mikhail Bulgakov and enthused by elements of German Expressionism, The Country Doctor tells a gripping story through heightened poses, precise choreography and experimental music.

Fleeing the shame of his failure at a medical school in Moscow, a young man escapes to the cold isolation of the Russian countryside.

There, he happens upon a lonely medical surgery. A peculiar cohort of nurses and surgeons take him in to be their new head doctor; a position he freely embraces despite his lack of qualifications.

How long will he survive in the country before his failure in the city catches up with him?

The show is complete with eccentric make-up, props, song, dance, live music and high theatricality.

Brought to the Cornerstone by emerging Noctium Theatre, a Coventry based theatre company formed in 2013 by graduates of Coventry University.

The performance will take place on Friday 11 May at 7.30pm. Tickets start from £5.

To book, head to cornerstone.arts.org or call the box office on 01235 515144.

The show carries an age guidance of 14 years and over as it contains strong language and content.

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Dear Reader,

Where children's inheritance is concerned our clients want certainty. They want to know that their children will one day benefit from all their years of hard work. They usually come to us having already made standard Mirror Wills with another firm. But often doubts remain in their mind.

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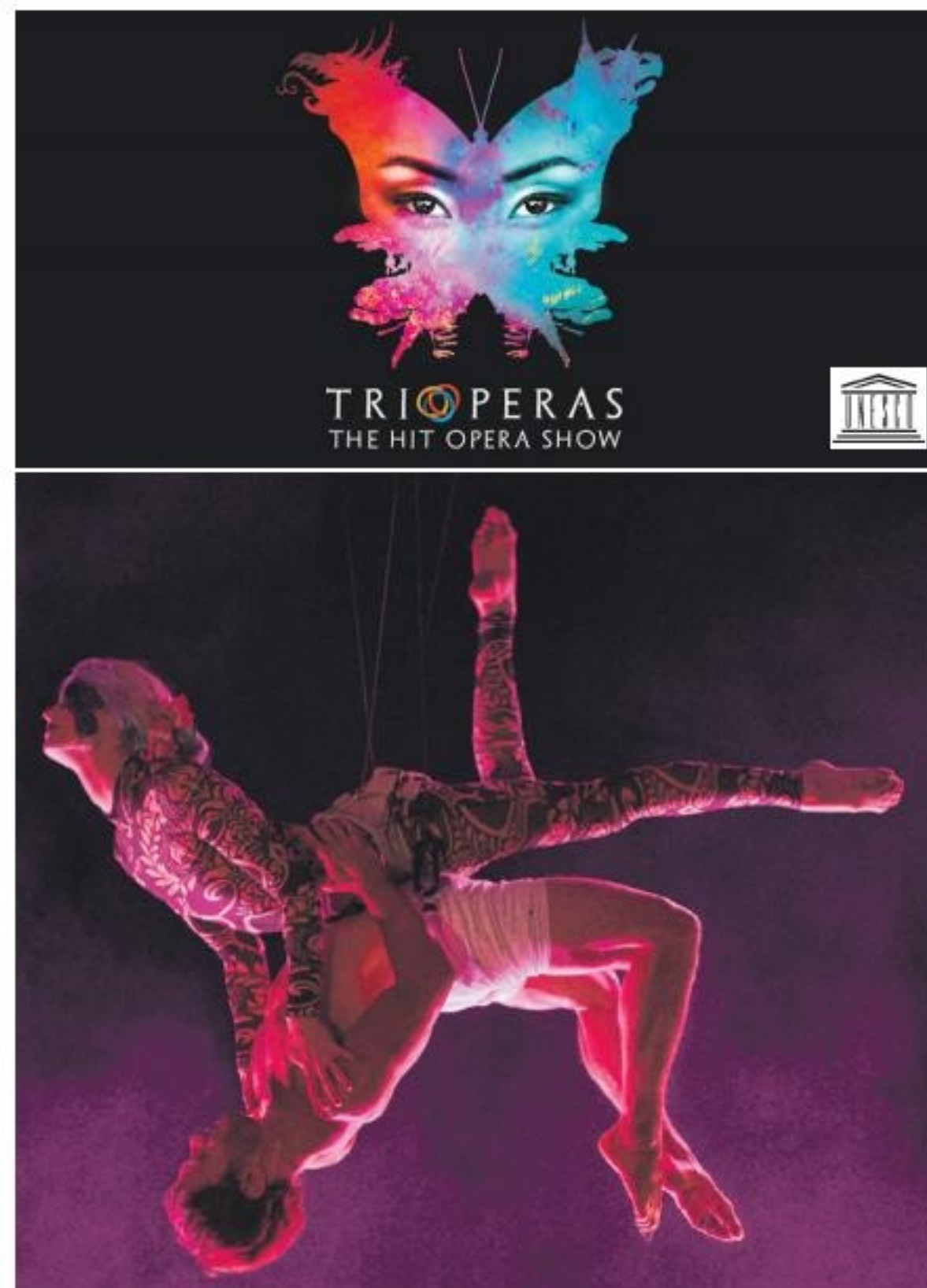
Q: Which country is Carmen set in? Italy, Portugal or Spain?

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3x prizes to be won. Each prize consists of a pair of tickets to see TriOperas at the Peacock Theatre. Prize is valid for use between Thursday 24 May and Sunday 10 June, excluding Friday and Saturday evening performances, strictly subject to availability. Prize is non-transferable and there are no cash alternatives. Travel is not included.

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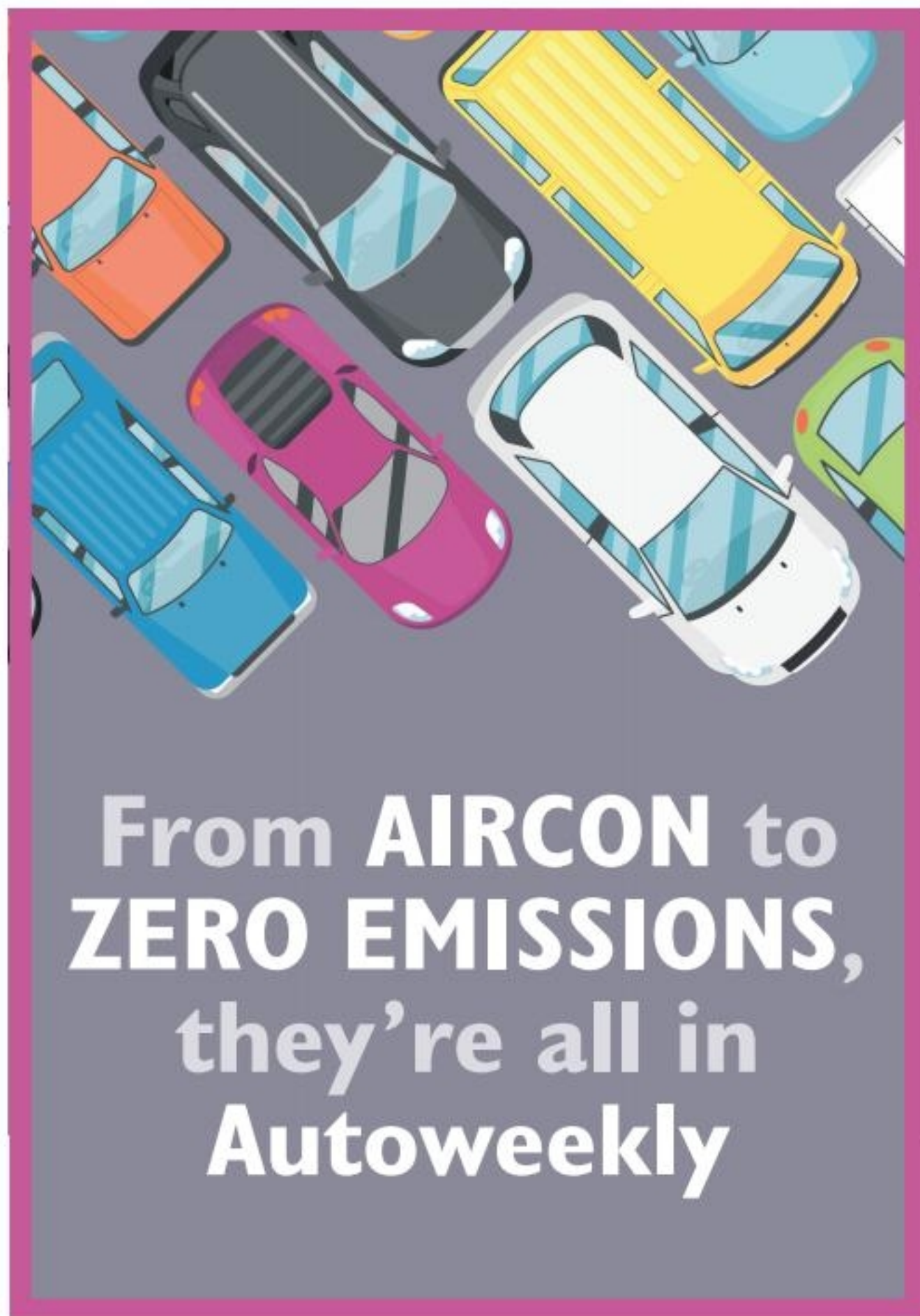
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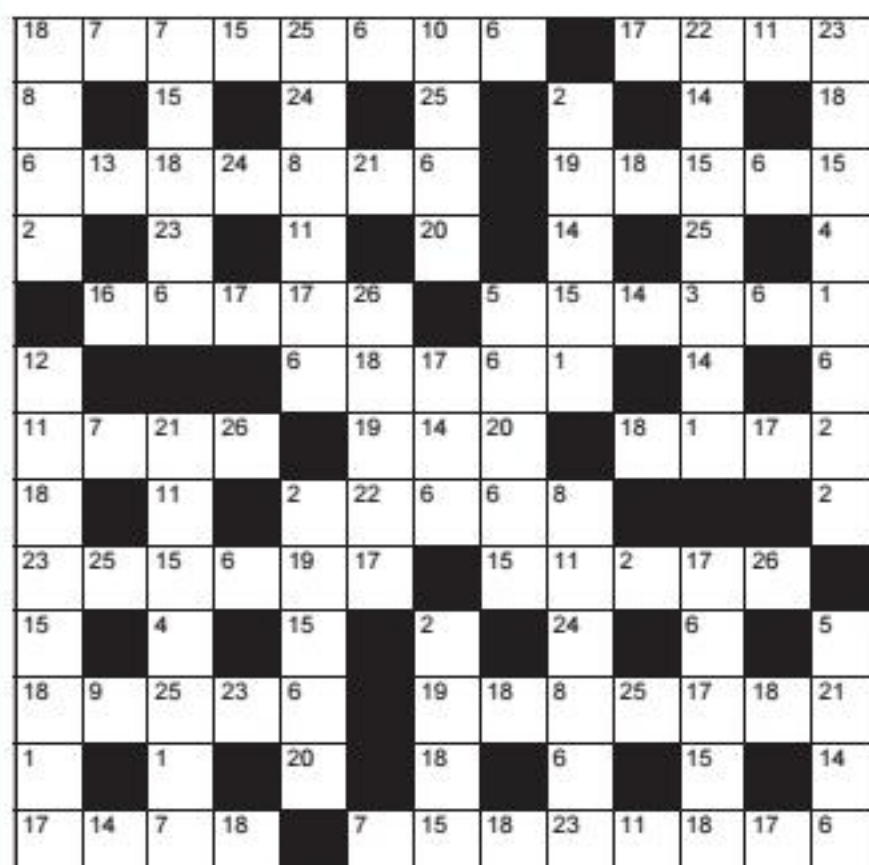
The Independent Choice Since 1965





Your weekly puzzle challenge

CROSS CODE



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N				E								
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			T									

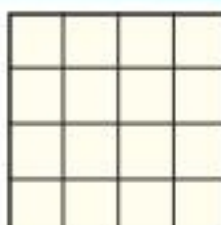
Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

NO SANDMEN IN EXAMS

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.



Quiz Challenge

- The Town of Titipu is the subtitle of which Gilbert & Sullivan operetta?
- The Discworld novels, set in a world held up by four elephants balanced on the back of a turtle, are by which author?
- Which African country has a coastline on both the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean?
- The clown Lancelot Gobbo is a character in which Shakespeare play?
- Which bridge is sometimes called The Coathanger because of its arch-based design?
- Which film, television and theatre actor was the first husband of Angelina Jolie?
- What was the first name of Mr Celsius, after whom the temperature scale was named?
- Which chemical element, with the atomic number 51, has the symbol Sb?
- Formed in 1895, which conservation organisation's motto is "For ever, for everyone"?
- Which popular First World War song did Vince Hill take to No 13 in the UK Singles Chart in 1967?

NONAGRAM



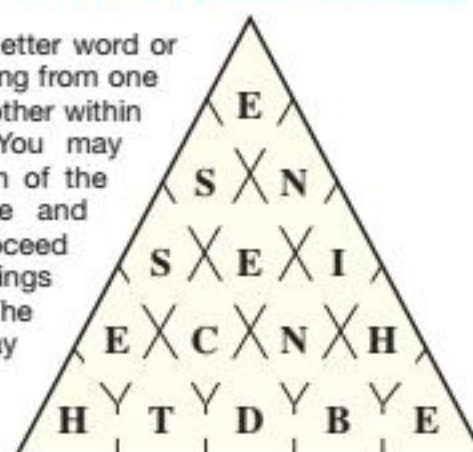
How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines: 14 Good; 16 Very Good; 19 Excellent.

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber.



FIVE ALIVE

GC	LH	OA	MS	ST
HA		BC		UH
SU	PL	TE	AR	RA
ER		SO		DN
NS	ET	RE	MV	YS

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

EQUALISER

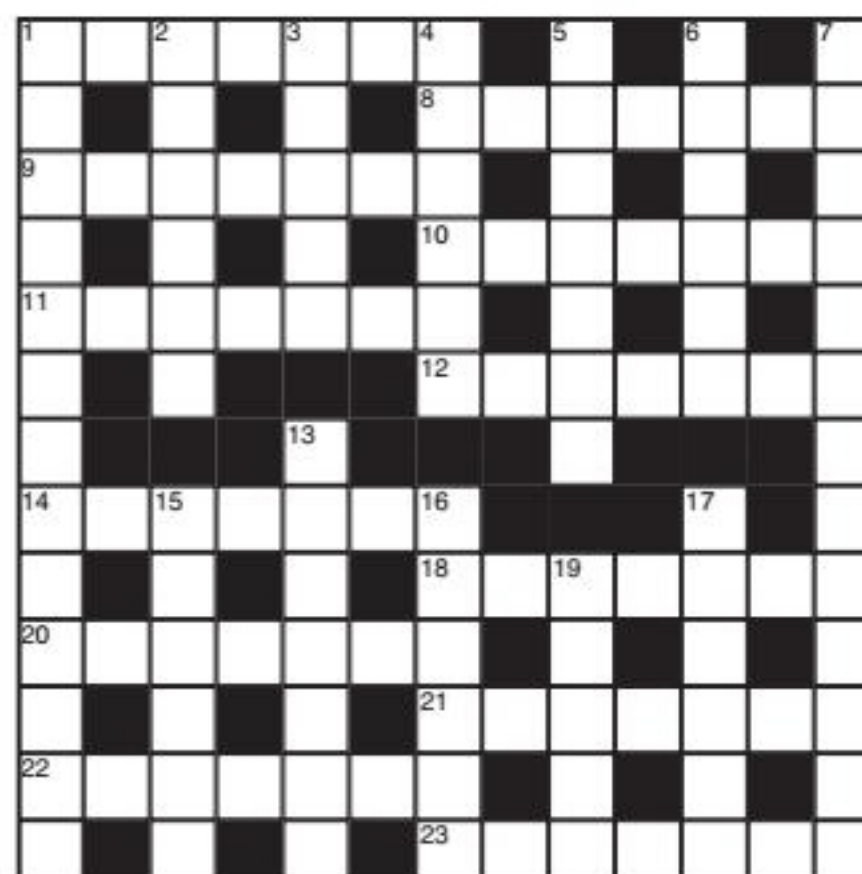
9	14
11	4
4	4
10	4
2	8

Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same. Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

All puzzles on this page are supplied by Sirius Media Services. To try more of our puzzles interactively online go to www.puzzledrome.com

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



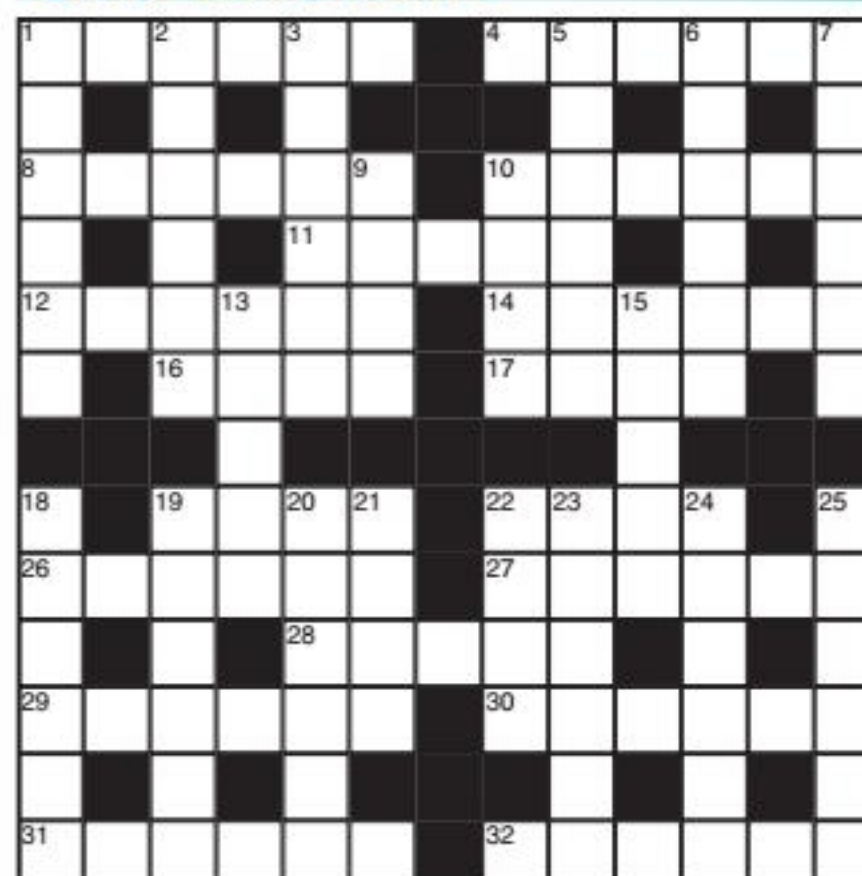
ACROSS

- Intimidate the fielder – that's a bloomer (7)
- The opposite has been written in metrical form (7)
- Pale men somehow put on jury (7)
- Finish destroying mice native to a particular country (7)
- Large quantity of gold in back of car (7)
- Caress girl on your knee (7)
- Most conceited one at home in underwear (7)
- Looking pale coming out of a cinema (7)
- Convolved mental condition (7)
- Narrow-minded, like the inhabitants of an island? (7)
- Straighten out new unit that has become muddled (7)
- Lose middle of the day to unpleasant ruling family (7)

DOWN

- Find a gap in the method of manufacturing flask? (6,1,6)
- Cleaning peg found in hairpiece (6)
- Nothing is taken from the room despite sudden movement (6)
- Pupil confused about First Empire crash (4-2)
- Diva removed it before the end of the day with eagerness (7)
- In Capri Malcolm was first (6)
- Humble tasks performed by the porter (5,3,5)
- Speak rhetorically of decimal conversion (7)
- How a game of chess might finish for resident? (6)
- Travelled at the airport by cab with Edwin (6)
- Walks quietly away from the mess (6)
- Lighting-up offence (5)

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Practical sermon (6)
- Support (4,2)
- Run back to show again (6)
- Do not go out (4,2)
- Finger (5)
- North Wales city (6)
- Erase (6)
- Sticky material (inf.) (4)
- Blyton, author (4)
- Italian river (4)
- Poet (4)

- Give up (6)
- Raised (6)
- Bet (5)
- Small beetle (6)
- Move from side to side (6)
- Reverberate again (2-4)
- Celestial body (6)
- As a result of this (6)
- Miaowing (6)
- European capital city (6)

- Putrid (6)
- Burst (6)
- Fruit basket (6)
- Scottish dagger (4)
- Team (4)
- Protect (5)
- Zodiac sign (5)
- Gardener (6)
- Extension (6)
- Quite modern (6)
- Verbal (4)
- Make tea (4)
- Antenna (6)
- Fiery monster (6)
- Coming (6)

SUDOKU

Easy

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

Hard

	3		2	5			8	
		4				5	2	6
				9		7		
7		1		6		9	3	4
3			8	4				1
	2		3				6	
2	4							5
5				3		1		2
			9	6	2			

			3		6			1
		1						
	6				5	9		
			8		1	2		
	3	2		5			4	
		9				8		6
1			2		3		9	8
6		1	7					
		4						3

SOLUTIONS

CROSS CODE: 1 The Merchant of Venice; 2 Terry Pratchett; 3 Morocco; 4 The Milkmaid; 5 Sydney Harbour Bridge; 6 Jonny Lee Miller; 7 Anders; 8 Anthony; 9 National Trust; 10 Roses of Picardy.

NONAGRAM: 1 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady; 2 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 3 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 4 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems; 5 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady; 6 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 7 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 8 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems; 9 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady; 10 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 11 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 12 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems; 13 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady; 14 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 15 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 16 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems; 17 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady; 18 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 19 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 20 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems; 21 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady; 22 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 23 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 24 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems; 25 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady; 26 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 27 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 28 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems; 29 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady; 30 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 31 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 32 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems.

QUICK CROSSWORD: 1 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 2 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 3 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems; 4 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady; 5 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 6 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 7 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems; 8 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady; 9 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 10 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 11 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems; 12 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady; 13 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 14 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 15 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems; 16 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady; 17 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 18 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 19 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems; 20 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady; 21 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 22 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 23 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems; 24 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady; 25 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 26 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 27 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems; 28 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady; 29 Across – Clams; Ultra; Nery; 30 Down – Gases; Obese; Turns; 31 Across – Ghost; Spear; Stems; 32 Down – Churn; Actor; Shady.

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Friday May 4th

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

BBC 1

7.00pm The One Show



9.15am Rip Off Britain
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am A1: Britain's Longest Road
11.45am The Housing Enforcers

BBC 2

10.00pm Episodes



7.15am Rip Off Britain
8.00am Antiques Roadshow
9.00am BBC Newsroom Live
10.00am Snooker

ITV

7.00pm Emmerdale



8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

Channel 4

9.00pm Gogglebox



7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.00am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.35am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Hotel Hell
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

Channel 5

3.15pm Presumed Dead in Paradise



8.35am Digby Dragon
8.55am Rusty Rivets
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm 800 Words
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Flipping Profit
4.30pm Flog It!
5.15pm Pointless

12.00pm Election 2018
1.00pm Snooker
3.00pm Election 2018
4.30pm Snooker

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Coast v Country
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm Escape to the Chateau: DIY
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Buy it Now

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.20pm NCIS
3.15pm Presumed Dead in Paradise
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm Sounds Like Friday Night
8.00pm EastEnders
8.30pm The Button
9.00pm Have I Got News for You
9.30pm Home from Home
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.25pm Regional News and Weather
10.35pm The Graham Norton Show
11.25pm Wannabe
11.50pm No Strings Attached
1.30am Weather for the Week Ahead

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm Britain in Bloom
7.00pm Snooker
9.00pm Syria: The World's War
10.00pm Episodes
10.30pm Newsnight
11.05pm Front Row Late
11.35pm World Championship Snooker Highlights
12.25am Easy Money
2.20am Panorama
2.50am Civilisations
3.50am The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story

6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm Love Your Garden
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Lethal Weapon
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm The Keith and Paddy Picture Show
11.10pm Through the Keyhole
12.10am Jackpot247
3.00am Take on the Twisters

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
7.30pm Unreported World
8.00pm Our Wildest Dreams
9.00pm Gogglebox
10.00pm Friday Night Dinner
10.30pm High and Dry
11.05pm First Dates
12.05am The Grey
2.10am True Horror
3.05am Kiss Me First
4.00am Come Dine Champion of Champions

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm The Gadget Show
8.00pm Britain's Great Cathedrals, with Tony Robinson
9.00pm Portillo's Hidden History of Britain
10.00pm Inside Strangeways
11.05pm Meet Mick Philpott: Psychopath
12.00am Super Casino
3.10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors
4.00am Rich House, Poor House
4.50am House Doctor
5.15am Wildlife SOS

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Saturday May 5th

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

BBC 1

5.10pm
Women's FA
Cup Final



10.00am Saturday Kitchen Live
11.30am The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure

12.00pm Football Focus
1.00pm BBC News
1.15pm Bargain Hunt
2.15pm Snooker
4.10pm BBC News
4.20pm Regional News and Weather
4.30pm Final Score
5.10pm Women's FA Cup Final

7.40pm Pointless
8.30pm Who Dares Wins
9.15pm Casualty
10.05pm BBC News
10.25pm Match of the Day
11.45pm The Button
12.15am When in Rome
1.40am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.45am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

1.10pm Top
of the Shop with
Tom Kerridge



7.10am The Pets Factor
7.30am The Engineers
8.00am Absolute Genius: Monster Builds
8.30am Beyond Bionic
9.00am Robot Wars
10.00am Snooker

1.10pm Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge
2.10pm Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge
3.10pm Love in the Countryside
4.10pm Snooker

6.00pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes
7.00pm Dad's Army
7.30pm Snooker
10.00pm The True Story
11.40pm Michael Palin: A Life on Screen
12.40am Easy Money II: Hard to Kill
2.15am This is BBC Two
6.05am Coast
6.35am Glorious Gardens From Above

ITV

8.00pm
Britain's Got Talent



8.00am Thunderbirds are Go
8.25am ITV News
8.30am Zoe Ball on Saturday
9.25am Saturday Morning with James Martin
11.20am Invitation to a Royal Wedding

12.20pm ITV Lunchtime News
12.30pm This Time Next Year
1.30pm ITV Racing: Live From Newmarket
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

6.00pm ITV Evening News
6.15pm ITV News London
6.30pm Ninja Warrior UK
7.30pm Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule
8.00pm Britain's Got Talent
9.15pm Who Wants to be a Millionaire?
10.20pm ITV News
10.35pm Sex and the City 2
1.15am Jackpot247
3.00am Babushka
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
6.00am Sooty
6.10am Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids
6.20am Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids

Channel 4

7.00pm The
Restoration Man



7.10am King of Queens
8.00am Everybody Loves Raymond
9.00am Frasier
10.30am The Big Bang Theory
11.00am The Big Bang Theory
11.55am The Simpsons

12.25pm The Simpsons
12.55pm The Simpsons
1.25pm Come Dine with Me
2.25pm A Place in the Sun
3.25pm A Place in the Sun
4.30pm Collection Hunters
5.35pm The Secret Life of the Zoo

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm The Restoration Man
8.00pm Britain's Most Historic Towns
9.00pm Zoolander 2
11.00pm Ride Along
12.50am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
1.40am Hollyoaks Omnibus
3.50am Come Dine Champion of Champions
4.45am Gok's Fill Your House for Free
5.40am Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star
6.10am Mobil 1 the Grid

Channel 5

1.25pm Police
Interceptors



9.30am Digby Dragon
9.50am Peppa Pig
10.00am Peppa Pig
10.05am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.40am The Gadget Show
11.30am Police Interceptors

12.25pm Police Interceptors
1.25pm Police Interceptors
2.25pm The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door
3.20pm The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door
4.20pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords
5.20pm Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords

6.15pm 5 News Weekend
6.20pm Rich House, Poor House
7.20pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
8.15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
9.15pm Secrets of Tutankhamun's Treasures
10.10pm The Great Rameses: New Evidence Revealed
11.10pm Football on 5
12.10am Super Casino
4.00am Billionaire Babies: 24 Carat Kids
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Wildlife SOS
5.35am Nick's Quest



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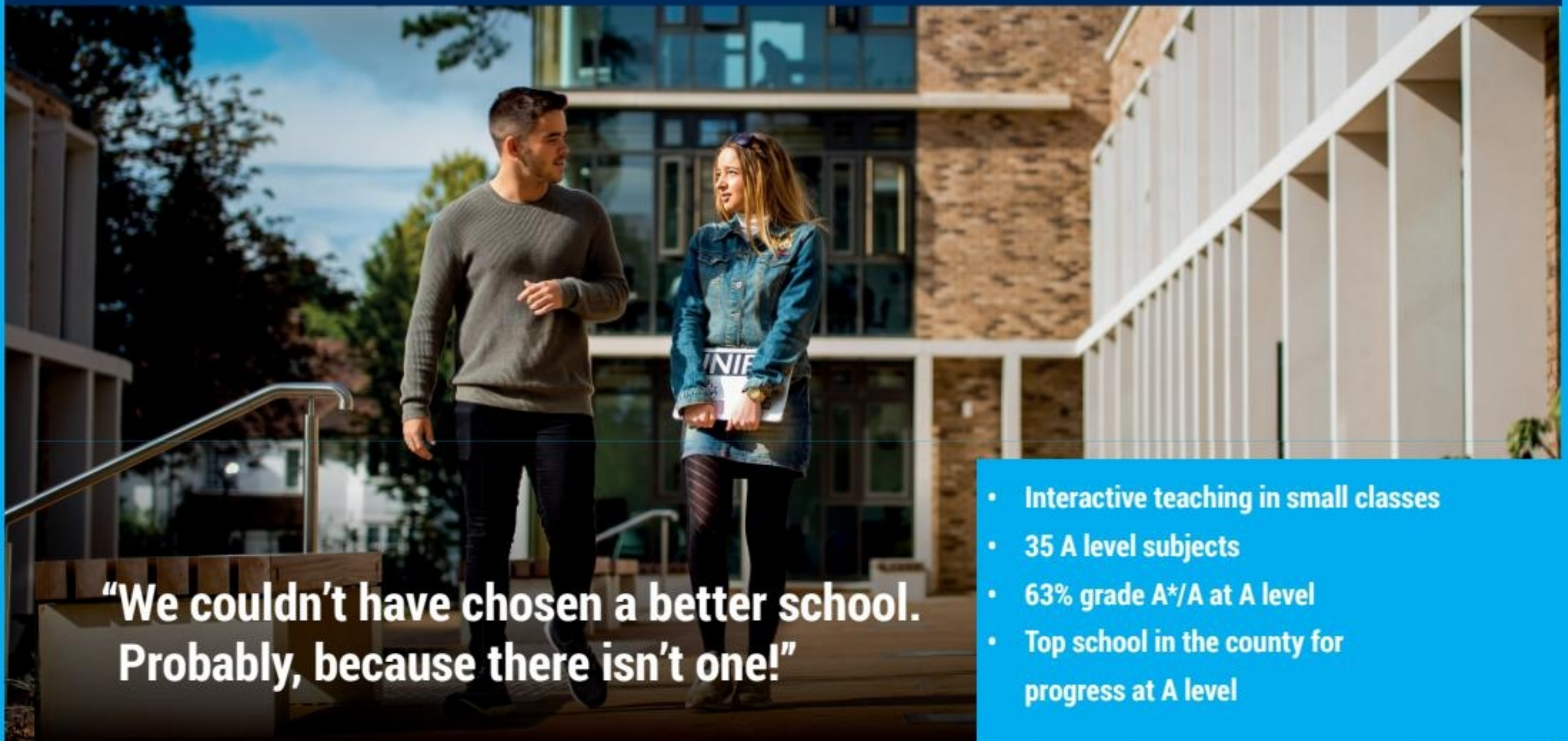
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- ✓ Building companies
- ✓ Business owners/ company directors
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- ✓ Councils
- ✓ Film companies



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Sunday May 6th

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

BBC 1

6.00pm
The Big Painting Challenge



7.35am Match of the Day
9.00am The Andrew Marr Show
10.00am The Big Questions
11.00am Sunday Politics

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News
1.15pm Escape to the Country
2.15pm Money for Nothing
2.45pm Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall
3.45pm Points of View
4.00pm Songs of Praise
4.35pm Britain's Best Home Cook
5.35pm BBC News
5.50pm Regional News and Weather

6.00pm The Big Painting Challenge
7.00pm Countryfile
8.00pm Antiques Roadshow
9.00pm The Woman in White
10.00pm BBC News
10.20pm Regional News and Weather
10.30pm Match of the Day 2
11.40pm Reggie Yates' Extreme UK
12.35am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.40am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

11.30am
Lorraine Pascale:
How to be a
Better Cook



8.45am The Beechgrove Garden
9.15am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
10.45am Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge
11.30am Lorraine Pascale: How to be a Better Cook

12.00pm MOTD2 Extra
12.30pm Equestrian
2.00pm Snooker
5.30pm Equestrian

6.00pm Athletics
7.00pm Snooker
11.00pm Famalam
11.20pm Live at the Apollo
12.05am Easy Money III: Life Deluxe
2.05am Question Time
3.05am Holby City
4.05am This is BBC Two
6.00am Flog it! Trade Secrets
6.30am A1: Britain's Longest Road

ITV

8.00pm
The Durrells



8.00am The Haunted Hathaways
8.25am ITV News
8.30am Zoe Ball on Sunday
9.25am Love Your Garden
10.00am Peston on Sunday
11.00am Britain's Got Talent

12.15pm Britain's Got More Talent
1.15pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.30pm ITV Racing: Live From Newmarket
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special

6.00pm Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule
6.30pm ITV Evening News
6.45pm ITV News London
7.00pm Little Big Shots
8.00pm The Durrells
9.00pm Who Wants to be a Millionaire?
10.05pm ITV News
10.20pm Peston on Sunday
11.20pm The Royal Wives of Windsor
12.15am The Royal Wives of Windsor
1.05am Jackpot247
3.00am Motorsport UK
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
5.05am The Jeremy Kyle Show

Channel 4

2.30pm
Megamind



7.05am Everybody Loves Raymond
7.30am Everybody Loves Raymond
7.55am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.25am Eat the Week with Iceland
9.30am Sunday Brunch

12.30pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
1.30pm The Simpsons
2.00pm The Simpsons
2.30pm Megamind
4.25pm Location, Location, Location
5.30pm Channel 4 News

6.00pm Escape to the Chateau
7.00pm The Crystal Maze
8.00pm Bake Off: The Professionals
9.00pm Homeland
10.15pm Tabula Rasa
11.15pm Transporter 3
1.10am Ruston
3.40am Mobil 1 the Grid
4.05am Gillette World Sport
4.35am Kirstie's Vintage Gems
4.50am Gok's Fill Your House for Free
5.45am Countdown
6.30am 3rd Rock from the Sun
6.55am 3rd Rock from the Sun

Channel 5

8.00pm
Eurovision's
Greatest Hits



8.55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.05am Shimmer and Shine
9.25am Digby Dragon
9.40am Peppa Pig
9.50am Peppa Pig
10.00am Great Birmingham 10k Run

12.00pm Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2
12.30pm Ace Ventura: Pet Detective
2.05pm Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud
3.05pm Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud
4.05pm Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever!
5.05pm 5 News Weekend
5.10pm The Adele Story
6.30pm Britain's Favourite Abba Songs
8.00pm Eurovision's Greatest Hits

9.00pm When Eurovision Goes Horribly Wrong
11.55pm Football on 5
12.50am Criminals Caught on Camera
1.15am Super Casino
3.10am The Yorkshire Vet
4.00am Tribal Teens... Here Comes Trouble
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Wildlife SOS
5.35am Nick's Quest
6.00am Peppa Pig
6.05am Mofy
6.10am Luo Bao Bei



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Monday May 7th

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

BBC 1



5.45pm Pointless
9.15am Rip Off Britain
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am AI: Britain's Longest Road
11.45am The Housing Enforcers

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.15pm Regional News and Weather
1.30pm 800 Words
2.15pm Escape to the Country
3.15pm Garden Rescue
4.00pm Flipping Profit
4.45pm Flog It!
5.45pm Pointless

6.30pm BBC News
6.45pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm A Question of Sport
8.00pm EastEnders
8.30pm Would I Lie to You?
9.00pm The Woman in White
10.00pm Peter Kay's Car Share Unscripted
10.30pm BBC News at Ten
10.50pm Regional News and Weather
11.00pm Have I Got a Bit More News for You
11.45pm The Graham Norton Show

BBC 2

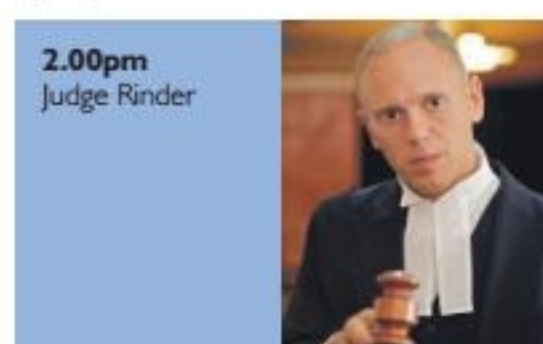


11.00pm Papillon
8.00am Nature's Weirdest Events
9.00am Tinker Bell and the Legend of the Neverbeast
10.10am Kung Fu Panda: The Kaboom of Doom
11.30am Jungle Animal Hospital

12.30pm Plan it, Build it
1.00pm Britain's Biggest Warship
2.00pm Snooker

6.00pm Great British Railway Journeys
6.30pm Eggheads
7.00pm Snooker
11.00pm Papillon
1.25am Stephen: The Murder That Changed a Nation
2.25am Countryfile
3.20am Murder, Mystery and My Family
4.05am This is BBC Two
6.00am Flog it! Trade Secrets
6.30am AI: Britain's Longest Road

ITV



2.00pm Judge Rinder
8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

12.30pm Loose Women
1.45pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

6.00pm Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs
6.25pm ITV News London
6.45pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm Give it a Year
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Who Wants to be a Millionaire?
10.00pm ITV News
10.20pm Notting Hill
12.30am Jackpot247
3.00am The Jeremy Kyle Show
3.55am ITV Nightscreen

Channel 4



8.30pm Tricks of the Restaurant Trade
9.35am The Big Bang Theory
10.00am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
10.55am The Simpsons
11.25am The Simpsons
11.50am The Simpsons

12.20pm The Princess Bride
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm The £100k Drop
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Buy it Now

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
7.30pm Britain's Benefits Crisis: Channel 4 Dispatches
8.00pm Holidays Unpacked
8.30pm Tricks of the Restaurant Trade
9.00pm Genderquake
10.00pm Gogglebox
11.00pm Kiss Me First
12.00am 999: What's Your Emergency?
1.00am The Secret Life of the Zoo
1.55am The Supervet

Channel 5



3.55pm Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked
8.20am Floogals
8.40am Digby Dragon
8.55am Nella the Princess Knight
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm The Gadget Show
1.10pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm Open Season
3.55pm Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked
5.30pm Neighbours

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights
8.00pm Police Interceptors
9.00pm Paddington Station 24/7
10.00pm Cocaine: Teen Dealers
11.00pm Layer Cake
1.05am Super Casino
3.10am Portillo's Hidden History of Britain
4.00am Tribal Teens... Here Comes Trouble
4.45am House Doctor

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¹ The Guardian, 'House prices rise 5% a year in more bad news for would-be buyers', 17/10/17

² Financial Reporter, 'Bank of Mum and Dad lending £18,000 on average', 20/10/17

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Our adviser, Andy Pike, based in Oxford, worked tirelessly on our behalf in arriving at a satisfactory outcome despite a valuation problem that my wife and I never anticipated. His prompt response to all our queries and tenacity in seeking answers and solutions from the lender cannot be praised highly enough. It was in all respects a highly-personal service. - John Wright, 14th February 2018.



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TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

BBC 1

8.00pm
Holby City

9.15am Rip Off Britain
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am A1: Britain's Longest Road
11.45am The Housing Enforcers

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm 800 Words
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Flipping Profit
4.30pm Flog It!
5.15pm Pointless

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm EastEnders
8.00pm Holby City
9.00pm The Split
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm Back to School with Mum and Dad
11.40pm Prince Harry and Meghan Markle - The Engagement Interview
12.00am Weather for the Week Ahead

BBC 2

7.00pm Back
to the Land with
Kate Humble

7.15am Flipping Profit
8.00am Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
11.00am BBC Newsroom Live
11.30am The Week in Parliament

12.00pm The Daily Politics
1.00pm The Super League Show
1.45pm Home Away From Home
2.30pm Going Back Giving Back
3.15pm Digging for Britain
4.15pm Tudor Monastery Farm
5.15pm Money for Nothing

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm Great British Railway Journeys
7.00pm Back to the Land with Kate Humble
8.00pm Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge
9.00pm Secret Agent Selection: WW2
10.00pm Later Live... with Jools Holland
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm Love in the Countryside
12.15am Stephen: The Murder That Changed a Nation
1.15am Secret Agent Selection: WW2
2.15am This is BBC Two

ITV

8.00pm This
Time Next Year

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase
6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Devon and Cornwall Cops

8.00pm This Time Next Year
9.00pm Who Wants to be a Millionaire?
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow
11.15pm Prince Harry's Story: Four Royal Weddings
12.10am The Durrells
1.00am Jackpot247
3.00am Loose Women
3.45am ITV Nightscreen
5.05am The Jeremy Kyle Show
6.00am Good Morning Britain

Channel 4

1.05pm Posh
Pawnbrokers

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Coast v Country
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm The -£100k Drop
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Buy it Now

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm The Secret Life of 5 Year Olds
9.00pm Genderquake
10.00pm Genderquake
11.00pm Flight Hs 13: Walter Presents
12.00am First Dates
1.00am One Born Every Minute
1.55am Our Wildest Dreams
2.50am The Channel
3.45am Gok's Fill Your House for Free
4.40am Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star

Channel 5

2.15pm The Yorkshire
Vet Casebook

8.20am Floogals
8.40am Digby Dragon
8.55am Nella the Princess Knight
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
3.15pm Born and Missing
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm MotoGP
8.00pm The Yorkshire Vet
9.00pm British Airways
10.00pm Circus Kids: Our Secret World
11.05pm Gypsy Kids
12.05am Celeb Trolls: We're Coming to Get You
1.00am Super Casino
3.10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors
4.00am Tribal Teens... Here Comes Trouble
4.45am House Doctor

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Wednesday May 9th

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

BBC 1

8.00pm
Watchdog Live

9.15am Rip Off Britain
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am AI: Britain's Longest Road
11.45am The Housing Enforcers

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
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3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Flipping Profit
4.30pm Flog It!
5.15pm Pointless

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
8.00pm Watchdog Live
9.00pm Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm Joshua v Klitschko: Return to Wembley
11.30pm Ambulance
12.30am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.35am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

10.00pm
Detectorists

7.15am Flipping Profit
8.00am Super Fast Falcon
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
11.00am BBC Newsroom Live
11.30am The Daily Politics

1.00pm Perfection
1.45pm Home Away From Home
2.30pm Going Back Giving Back
3.15pm Digging for Britain
4.15pm Tudor Monastery Farm
5.15pm Money for Nothing

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm Great British Railway Journeys
7.00pm Back to the Land with Kate Humble
8.00pm Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge
9.00pm Love in the Countryside
10.00pm Detectorists
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm Syria: The World's War
12.15am Syria: The World's War
1.15am Stephen: The Murder That Changed a Nation

ITV

9.00pm Who
Wants to be a
Millionaire?

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
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6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.30pm Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow
9.00pm Who Wants to be a Millionaire?
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm Sunday Night at the Palladium
11.45pm British Touring Car Championship Highlights
1.00am Jackpot247
3.00am Grantchester

Channel 4

8.00pm
The Secret Life
of the Zoo

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

12.00pm Channel 4 News
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5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Buy it Now

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm The Secret Life of the Zoo
9.00pm One Born Every Minute
10.00pm First Dates
11.05pm Naked Attraction
12.10am Friday Night Dinner
12.35am High and Dry
1.05am Genderquake
2.00am The Quiet Ones
3.40am Gok's Fill Your House for Free
4.35am Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star

Channel 5

8.00pm
GPs: Behind
Closed Doors

8.20am Floogals
8.40am Digby Dragon
8.55am Nella the Princess Knight
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Paddington Station 24/7

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
3.15pm Driven Off the Rails
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm Police Interceptors
8.00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
9.00pm Rich House, Poor House
10.00pm Tortured by Mum and Dad? - The Turpin 13
11.05pm Criminals Caught on Camera
12.05am Diced to Death: Countdown to Murder
1.00am Super Casino
3.10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors
4.00am Kavos: Get Your Tatts Out
4.45am House Doctor

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What do the 'political tea leaves' indicate?

Bill Cooper, co-author of *The Oxford Property Blog* and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford



There's a growing belief the Conservatives are just one electoral jolt away from hijacking some of Labour's rental sector policies in a bid to woo younger voters. With reports last week of 16m UK citizens renting over the coming years, it is clear tenants will become an increasingly powerful electoral force.

Just last week the editorial in the right-wing political magazine *The Spectator*, advocated that the Tories steal Labour's policies on rent caps and longer tenancies - or risk losing the next general election.

If the Conservatives do badly in next Thursday's local elections, the increasingly common view is that the party should become

more pro-tenant and by implication more anti-landlord.

So, if the Conservatives lose local council seats in London, will they start demanding policies to win back disillusioned young voters in time for a General Election in 2022? And will they start with the disillusioned young people who feel that they have been forced to rent by unaffordable house prices, mortgage lender demands for large unattainable deposits and by the burden of student debt repayments.

So, what might these further reforms target?

They could introduce rent caps aligned to local salaries. They could make 24 or even 36-month

tenancies standard. They could give further planning advantages to Build to Rent. They could further raise stamp duty and capital gains tax on second homes. And, they could clampdown on incorporated landlords.

Will such reforms benefit the rental market?

In the main, no. Any easing of planning restriction to create new rental properties is to be welcomed, but the reality is that there is already insufficient available properties for rent, and anything that discourages private or incorporated landlords from investing in new property is likely to exacerbate the supply crisis. Further constraint on supply will perversely drive-up rents, causing further demands and pressure for rent caps to keep renting affordable.

Unfortunately, the reforms being demanded by the Labour party and increasingly stolen and rebranded by the Conservative party are not conceived as a rational well thought out response to a difficult market situation, they are purely aiming

to be popular with lots of young voters. To hell with solving the problem, let's just do what's popular!

So, what should landlords do?

Those with properties should hold-on to their valuable assets - they are the lucky ones. Further changes to the tax system are unlikely to be sufficiently significant to undermine the returns and value of their assets. Those wanting to expand their portfolios should probably get in quick - it seems unlikely that barriers such as the stamp duty surcharge will be repealed and more likely that they will become tougher. Those with a longer-term plan? - it is probably a wait and see and compare the returns from buy to let to other investments at the time.

I think all buy to let investors though need to consider the wider investment climate, and the potential volatility of alternative investments. Oxford's Global profile as a centre for learning, a beautiful historic city and a vibrant knowledge-based economy will create stability of

demand for accommodation. As the plans to join together Oxford and Cambridge materialise, housing supply will increase progressively over the coming 10 to 15 years. Until then, demand for good quality private rented properties will continue to grow. So landlords, keep calm & carry-on investing, but keep an eye on the politicians, they don't have your best interests at heart!



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BENSON An extended family home located on this sought-after development. Five bedrooms, four reception rooms and two washrooms. There is also a useful utility room. The South facing rear garden is private and secure. EPC Rating C

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WANTAGE An established home situated in this desirable cul-de-sac. Accommodation: WC, two rec rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, four bedrooms, en-suite and bathroom. Garage and parking. EPC Rating D

£485,000 Wantage office 01235 772670



DORCHESTER ON THAMES Situated in one of Oxfordshire's most sought after villages, within walking distance of the River Thames and the Abbey is this modernised and spacious semi-detached home. No-Onward Chain. EPC Rating C

£390,000 Wallingford office 01491 833323



GROVE A large, well presented detached home with driveway parking and a detached garage. Spacious entrance hall with double doors opening into the substantial living room which runs the length of the property. EPC Rating D

£350,000 Wantage office 01235 772670



BLEWBURY A smartly presented 3 bedroom mid-terrace property set back from the road in a private enclave of just 5 houses and enjoys pleasant views of the adjacent fields and farm land. Available with a complete chain. EPC Rating B.

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EAST HENDRED A fantastic Grade II listed semi-detached cottage with two double bedrooms located in the highly desirable village of East Hendred. Garage. On street parking. Flexible furnishings. Available now. EPC Rating Exempt

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Dacia Sandero 'Ambiance' TCe 90

You're not mad to want one of these!

By **Tony Yates**

Say the words 'I'm going to go out and buy a Dacia Sandero' any louder than a whisper and people from all corners of the globe will suddenly look at you like you are stark raving mad! Well, I'm here today to tell you that you are not any of those things; in fact, I'm here to tell you that the Dacia Sandero is a car that has been built to do the best it can for very little money.

Power & efficiency

The Sandero I had on test was powered by a 3 cylinder 898cc - 5-speed turbocharged petrol engine that has 90HP and a respectable top speed of around 109mph, plus a 0-62 time of 11.1 seconds - which in my book is not bad for a 3 cylinder engine that's basically built for economy and not speed. Fuel consumption is also very good with a combined figure of 57.6 mpg. Also, the Sandero is actually a pretty good car for very little money. Yes, it's not hot hatch fast, but



then again, it's not supposed to be. Plus, you have to remember that the Sandero costs under £9,000 in basic form meaning it really is the bargain of the century.

On the road

It's a little soft, but into the corners, it feels OK. I was actually amazed how well it did perform when you look again

at it's under £9,000 price tag. As for that 3-cylinder petrol engine, it plods away without grumbling that much at all. Yes, it only has 90HP, but it actually does a pretty good job of moving along in what I would call a 'leisurely pace'.

Another plus point for the Sandero is that it has a decent amount of torque - in fact, 140Nm of it - which allows it to pull very well from pretty much any gear as long as you remember what I said earlier, that in my opinion - it's built for economy and not speed.

I must also point out that I actually liked driving it, which surprised me, as I'm not used to driving cars with less than 100HP for the morning school run, or for taking all my friends to football training on a Saturday morning - which actually, it did a pretty good job of considering it was loaded with five huge men and all their football kit.

Design & technology

On the inside, the interior is 'basic', and some of the interior plastics do look and feel 'cheap and scratchy'. But

then again, it's not the end of the world. Although I would have preferred it if Dacia had spent a few quid more on the interior feel - which in the end would have helped it feel a little less 'basic'. But, its functional I suppose, and at such a low price, I'm willing to accept it.

Standard equipment in 'Ambiance' trim includes; body-coloured bumpers, satin chrome central console surround and instrument surrounds, 3 height-adjustable rear headrests, anti-intruder automatic door-locking system, remote central locking, eco mode, stop/start, manual air conditioning, electric front windows, DAB/FM/AM tuner with fingertip control and 4 speakers, Bluetooth connectivity, AUX input & USB connection.

To sum up:

I'm going to give the Sandero four stars in this test, not only because I like how it drives, but also because I like the price tag.

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Points at last in a crazy race

By George Welch

F1 - Williams

THE Azerbaijan GP was a 'missed opportunity' for Williams despite the strugglers recording their first points of the Formula 1 season, according to chief technical officer Paddy Lowe.

Lance Stroll managed to keep his car in one piece during Sunday's chaotic race to finish in eighth place for the Grove side's first three points of a challenging campaign.

However, team-mate Sergey Sirotkin ran into the back of Sergio Perez's Force India at turn two on the opening lap and retired.

It made for a mixed afternoon for Williams in a race which had seven DNFs.

Lowe said: "As usual, we had a highly eventful afternoon with lots of incidents right to the very end, so it was great to get eighth position with Lance.

"I'm happy in one way but disappointed in another, because I think there were many more points possible for us today.

"It was a great drive by Lance all weekend. He kept the car in one piece which is one of the key things at this circuit.

"It is great to get our first points on



Eventful afternoon: Lance Stroll leads a crowded pack in Baku
Picture: Williams Martini Racing

the board this season and we need to keep this momentum going."

Stroll, whose rookie season peaked with a third place finish in Baku last year, was happy after a 'crazy' race.

"It was a crazy race. So much happened," the Canadian said.

"I am pretty happy with the race, there were perhaps one or two more positions if we did everything

perfectly, but no one had a perfect race.

"I am happy with P8 and it was a good race for the team. We can't assume this pace will carry on to Barcelona, we have to understand our issues and keep working but that is just what we are doing."

Williams are finally off the mark for the season but have already received

a blow ahead of the Spanish GP on May 13.

Sirotkin will serve a three-place grid penalty after being found 'wholly responsible' for colliding with Perez.

Lewis Hamilton won the race, benefiting from a Sebastian Vettel mistake, a collision between the two Red Bulls and a puncture for team-mate Valtteri Bottas

Switch error proves costly for embarrassed Grosjean

F1 - Haas

IT is not often you see a driver crash out of a race under safety car conditions, but that is exactly how a slightly embarrassed Romain Grosjean bowed out of the hectic Azerbaijan GP.

Grosjean suffered the bizarre elimination while attempting to keep his tyres warm during the latter stages of the race, losing the rear of his car and finding himself in the barriers.

Until that incident, the Frenchman was running in P6 for Banbury-based Haas - an impressive showing given he started the chaotic race at the very back of the grid.

The mistake has been put down to accidental 'switch bump'.

Grosjean said: "This hurts a lot and I want to apologise to the team.

"We were in the middle of an amazing race, starting last and running P6.

"Seeing [Sergio] Perez on the podium, knowing I was fighting with him, is very painful for all of us."

He added: "I was warming up my tyres and bumped into a switch that I'd moved by two positions.

"When I touched the brakes, the brake balance was locked rearward - it just locked the rear wheels and I spun."

Team-mate Kevin Magnussen finished 13th.

Carlos Sainz finished fifth for Enstone-based Renault, but Nico Hulkenberg was unable to make it four points-scoring finishes in a row after crashing into the wall on lap 12.



Tricky trip: Romain Grosjean enjoys the scenery before ploughing into a wall while the safety car was out. **Picture:** Haas F1

Nil points in Paris at end of challenging day for Jaguar

Formula E

IT was a weekend to forget for Jaguar at the Paris E-Prix after leaving the French capital pointless for the first time this season.

In a challenging weekend for the Grove side, Mitch Evans, who started from the back of the grid following a 10-place penalty and made an early enforced nose change, crossed the line in 15th.

Team-mate Nelson Piquet showed good initial energy management but, following his mandatory car change on lap 25, encountered issues with his seatbelts again and was forced to retire.

The Brazilian said: "No points for

the team which is a shame. I made the team's life difficult with two accidents [in practice] and no luck in the race.

"I had seatbelt issues for the second race in a row and had to retire so not a great day all round."

Team director James Barclay added: "It has been a really challenging day for the team but I have to thank everyone for the effort to get both cars on to the grid.

"Nelson's accidents in practice and Mitch's grid penalty really compromised our opportunity for more points.

"We have learnt valuable lessons and now look forward to a fresh start in Berlin."

The next race in Germany is on May 19.



Pointless visit: Mitch Evans encountered nose problems on his Jaguar
Picture: Panasonic Jaguar Racing

High hopes for Japan success

Super GT

CHIPPING Norton driver Sean Walkinshaw returns to the scene of his maiden Super GT Championship race victory today for the second round of the 2018 season.

The ARTA driver is eyeing GT300 silverware as minimum at Fuji Speedway in Japan during the annual Japanese holidays to celebrate Constitutional Memorial Day and Greenery Day.

Walkinshaw, 24, opened his account during the Okayama curtain-raiser in April with a top-six finish, but the Oxfordshire driver has high hopes of securing a first podium finish in Japan.

He said: "Fuji holds great memories from last year, it's a fantastic track and the ARTA BMW is strong there so I'm really looking forward to this week's race.

"We hoped for a little bit more from Okayama, but at a circuit which doesn't suit the BMW we were all pretty satisfied with a top six start to the season. Going to Fuji, though, we're aiming much higher.

"If we can have a trouble-free couple of days then we've got a strong chance of the podium and a good chance of fighting for the win."

Qualifying begins today with the 500km race taking place tomorrow at Fuji Speedway.

Eddie tees off in GolfSixes

Golf

ABINGDON golfer Eddie Pepperell will star in a golfing tournament with a difference this weekend.

The Frilford Heath member partners Matt Wallace in the England men's team vying to be crowned the second GolfSixes champions.

The tournament features 16 teams of two players from the European and Ladies European Tours competing over a specially created six-hole course at the Centurion Club, St Albans.

The format will be a greensomes matchplay, when both players hit their tee shot, select which ball to use and take alternate shots thereafter.

On day one of the two-day event, players will compete in four groups of four teams.

Each match will be played over all six holes, the winner being the team who wins the most holes. A win earns three points while a draw gets one.

After three group matches, the top two teams qualify for the knockout rounds on day two.

This is when the action heats up with four knockout rounds culminating in the all-important final and €200,000 cash prize. On Sunday, any tied matches go to a specially constructed play-off hole.

Pepperell claimed his maiden Tour title in the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters, while Wallace triumphed in the Hero Indian Open.

Pepperell and Wallace are in Group D with South Africa, Sweden and England Women.

The competition aims to modernise the sport and make it more accessible.

Sport

Diddy in search of play-off final

By George Welch

Evo-Stik round-up

DIDCOT Town faced a huge game last night as they battled it out with Wimborne Town for a place in the Evo-Stik South West play-off final.

The winners take on the victors of Evesham United's clash with Swindon Supermarine, which also took place after we went to press last night, on bank holiday Monday.

The Railwaymen edged into the play-offs on goal difference thanks to a must-win 3-0 victory over Paulton Rovers on Saturday.

Diddy were the away side against Wimborne as they finished lower in the division. Should they win, they will have to play away again in the final because they occupied the last play-off spot.

Town have flirted with the play-offs for most of the season, and they finally cemented their top-six berth on a tense final day at home to Paulton.

Didcot goalkeeper Leigh Bedwell tipped over a long-range effort in a cagey first half with few efforts.



We've done it: Felipe Barcelos celebrates scoring the second goal and with it a top-six spot. **Picture:** Roger Neal

The hosts dominated possession and deservedly took the lead on 44 minutes through Callum McNish.

With their play-off rivals all winning, Diddy needed to hold on to their lead. The Railwaymen secured their top-six spot in the last minute when Felipe Barcelos powered home.

Sam Barder put the icing on the cake in injury time, tucking the ball under the goalkeeper to spark wild celebrations.

Elsewhere in the West division, goalkeeper Sam Warrell got on the scoresheet as Kidlington ended their season in fine style with an emphatic 5-0 victory at Shortwood United on Monday.

Warrell surprisingly smashed home a 36th minute penalty as manager Julian McCalmon signed off as manager on a high note.

Lewis Coyle (2), Declan Benjamin and Darius Browne also found

the net for the Greens, who won following Saturday's 2-2 draw with Mangotsfield.

Darryll Harris grabbed a late equaliser as North Leigh drew 1-1 at home to Larkhall Athletic, two days before finishing the season with a 3-0 home defeat to Cinderford Town.

In the East division, James McGowan scored Thame United's only goal of the game as they lost 3-1 at home to Kempston Rovers.

Great finish for Puritans but boss wants more points

Banbury United

MIKE Ford was full of praise for his Banbury United players after ending the Evo-Stik Southern League campaign with a point and a clean sheet.

The Puritans played out a goalless draw at Tiverton Town on Saturday.

Leam Howards had a goal ruled out for offside in the first half and Stephane Ngamvoulou fired over from close range late on as United finished ninth.

Despite not winning, boss Ford was delighted with the performance. "We were outstanding, absolutely magnificent," he said.

"When you get a group of players

together, that is how you want them to perform every week, irrespective of whether it's a game against a team at the top, bottom or mid-table.

"There was nothing to play for but we found something to play for and that's what drove us on. We deserved to win it."

Reflecting on the ninth place finish, Ford added: "The top teams

have got more points than normal because the bottom teams have accumulated so few but to finish ninth with 72 points is an excellent season.

"Only the top five teams have got a better away record than us, scored more goals, or lost less games than us but we have to work out why we haven't finished higher."

Play-off place after impressive Chinnor win

Rugby

CHINNOR rounded off the season with an impressive 52-14 victory over Clifton on Saturday.

The solid win for the second-placed side in National League 2 South means they finish the season on 131 points and will now contest a play-off place with North runners-up Segley Park.

Elsewhere, Henley Hawks end the

season in ninth on 73 points despite a 51-0 thrashing at the hands of third place Redingensians Rams.

In the South West 1 East, bottom club Bicester were joined by fellow Oxfordshire side Grove in relegation to the Southern Counties North.

But Grove finally gave their fans something to cheer with a 34-0 win over Old Centralians after a run of eight consecutive defeats.

At the other end of the table, Oxford Harlequins end the season fourth on

76 points, while Banbury's 42-31 play-off defeat against Exeter University means they miss out on promotion to the fifth tier.

In the Berks Bucks & Oxon Premier, a dominant Wheatley sealed victory in their final game of the season beating Tadley 11-10. Already promoted second placed Littlemore ended their two-year unbeaten home record losing 19-17 to champions Slough, while Didcot and relegated Abingdon's seasons ended on April 21 and 14 respectively.



Dominant: Wheatley's Simon Chadbone pushes through Littlemore's defensive line

Young rider canters to title

Showjumping

KIRTLINGTON rider Saskia Mohan has won a leading British show jumping award.

The promising 14-year-old, a member of the Central Junior Academy in Chichester, galloped her way to the NAF Shining Star for April.

Mohan was put forward for the honour by coach Mandy McGlynn, who said: "Saskia is a great team member and has competed in all of the team competitions over the last two years.

"She is always cheerful, a joy to teach and always keen to get involved.

"Last year she was awarded most improved rider at the Central

Academy Awards."

After joining British Showjumping in 2016 with her pony, Tiperonic, Saskia has for the past year been concentrating on developing a young pony, Ballyerk Cobalt.

She said: "I am so honoured to have been put forward for this award.

"I never thought that I would win, I am so happy. My big dream is to qualify for the Horse of the Year Show with my youngster."

The NAF Shining Star Award is for junior academy members who have shown a great deal of commitment and progression in the sport.

Riders are nominated by their lead coach, and then judged and awarded by NAF to one person each month.



Riding high: Award-winning Kirtlington rider Saskia Mohan with Ballyerk Cobalt

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Monday 30 April

North Leigh 0-3 Cinderford Town

Shortwood United 0-5 Kidlington

UHSport Hellenic League Premier Division

Saturday 28 April
Abingdon United 3-0 Highmoor Ibis
Burnham 2-2 Wantage Town

Businessman ready to take on 'big job' at Sunderland

Football

PROSPECTIVE Sunderland owner Stewart Donald is confident his takeover will be approved, and assures he has the funds to be a success.

The west Oxfordshire businessman, and current Eastleigh chairman, is just awaiting league approval before a consortium he heads up acquires control of the club from Ellis Short.

Donald, an Oxford United fan, has invested in the U's and his company, Bridle Insurance, has sponsored the club's shirts.

He was also involved in Juan Sartori's failed takeover of the club last summer.

Donald's company has sponsored North Leigh and gave the west Oxfordshire club a financial boost when Eastleigh donated the match proceeds from last season's fourth qualifying round.

Former insurance man Donald has put Eastleigh up for sale, as a result of the Sunderland takeover.

He told BBC Radio Solent: "I'm confident I can give Sunderland a competitive budget. It will take a bit of work. I've got the funds required to give that a go.

"Who wouldn't be excited about Sunderland? It's a challenge, I can't say anything about it other than to say that it is a big job.

"I am unbelievably excited about it."

The Sunderland deal is subject to EFL approval after Black Cats chairman Short agreed to sell the club.

Donald will take over a club in turmoil - Sunderland have just been relegated to League One so will face Oxford United next season and are currently without a manager after sacking Chris Coleman.

U's performance spot on after penalties secure positive end

By George Welch

Oxford United 2

John Mousinho 62 (p),
Todd Kane 83 (p)

Rochdale 1

Brad Inman 59

Attendance: 8,375 (540 away)

OXFORD United manager Karl Robinson praised his players' calmness after they beat Rochdale 2-1 on Saturday to mathematically secure their League One status.

John Mousinho and Todd Kane converted penalties as the U's came from behind against a side fighting for their lives to finally get over the line with a third victory in the last four games.

United are now up to the 15th, eight points clear of the drop zone with a game to go.

Robinson said: "I think the most important thing is tremendous calmness around the place.

"Me and Faz (Derek Fazackerley, assistant) have seen a lot of things in football and we didn't carried away with the emotion of it.

"We were very calm with our plan and preparation. The players delivered and as did the fans, which is great."

The result was celebrated like a huge win but Oldham failed to beat



Good finish: Todd Kane gives United the lead and secures the three points.

Doncaster Rovers at home, meaning safety was secured even in defeat.

After a sleepy first half the game burst into life on the hour mark.

Brad Inman opened the scoring for the relegation-threatened visitors on 59 minutes with a low shot from 16 yards after cutting inside a defender.

Oxford equalised three minutes later from the penalty spot after Joe Rothwell drove into the box and was brought down by Callum Camps.

Skipper John Mousinho hammered the spot-kick high into the net for his first goal for the club.

Dale remain in peril and started to throw men forward to try and turn one point into three but United were resilient at the back.

And with six minutes to go Camps was again guilty of a mistimed tackle, tripping substitute Rob Hall inside the area.

This time Todd Kane took the

penalty and sent Josh Lillis the wrong way as he fired into the bottom-right corner and secured the three points.

Rochdale occupy the final relegation spot and host Charlton Athletic, who still need a point to cement a play-off spot, in Saturday's season finale.

Carefree Oxford meanwhile end the season at Blackburn Rovers, who are still gunning for the League One title.

Picture: Steve Daniels

Basic errors cost victory after a good opening half

OUFCW

LIVID Oxford United Women's boss Andy Cook was left questioning his players' mindsets after they capitulated 'like a house of cards' at Sheffield Ladies.

The U's went into half time on level terms but conceded four times in 16 minutes after the restart to lose 4-1.

Emma Johnson (2), Hannah Cain and Jenna Dear netted for the hosts before Georgia Timms pulled one back for United with three minutes remaining.

Cook was not impressed with his side, who have now lost seven of their last eight games.

He said: "We were right in the game in the first half and then we've had a mad 10-15 minutes in the second half where we've just collapsed - it was a house of cards.

"Every time Sheffield went forward they hit us but for us it's not even tactical things, it's just basic, basic things like blocking shots, working for each other and we made basic errors. It comes down to the individual mindsets.

"We have to get that enjoyment back into it. The players were enjoying things at the start of the season and it's hard to get that back."

The U's are next in action on May 13 when they welcome bottom club Watford Ladies to Court Place Farm.

Good experience ahead of next season

OUFC Youth

OXFORD United's development side enjoyed an excellent 1-1 draw against Premier League side West Bromwich Albion's Under-23 side on Monday.

Fielding a side with three senior players, four youngsters who have been offered a pro deal and four trialists, United took the lead in the first minute.

Albie Hopkins, top scorer in the

youth team this season, picked up a rebound after one of the trialists had forced the West Brom keeper in to a smart save.

The youngster showed good composure to fire the ball into the top corner to give United a 1-0 lead inside 60 seconds.

United created more chances but were pegged back when West Brom took advantage of a sloppy back pass to level things, but coach Chris Allen was pleased with his young side.

He said: "It was another really good experience for some of the youngsters and we had the chance to look at the trialists with next season in mind a little bit.

"Obviously scoring in the first minute is a bonus but we did start very brightly and I think the lads should be really pleased with how they played over the entire 90 minutes."

Sam Long, Canice Carroll and Josh Ashby, who leaves at the end of the season, were the seniors involved.

Constable an arresting sight in front of goal

Oxford City

EX-OXFORD United striker James Constable netted against Oxford City as the Hoops suffered final day defeat at Poole Town.

The former U's favourite, who scored more than 100 goals in yellow, netted the opener just after the hour in a must-win game for the hosts.

Steve Devlin also scored in the second half for a 2-0 win over City, who played without any pressure having already secured their National League South status.

However, the win was not enough for the hosts, who were condemned to relegation after Hungerford Town beat East Thurrock United.

A volley from City's Reece Fleet went close early on but the contest was defined by a three-minute spell shortly after the hour mark.

On 61 minutes, Oxford's Rob Sinclair appeared to be tripped in the penalty area after a weaving run through the defence, but was booked for simulation.

And the away side found themselves behind three minutes later when Constable found space on the left and smashed the ball beyond Craig King.

Poole put the game beyond doubt with seven minutes to go as Devlin spotted King off his line and spectacularly lobbed the goalkeeper from 35 yards.

Mark Jones's City finished 16th in the table.



Blast from the past: James Constable in action for Oxford United in 2014

Picture: Steve Daniels

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Wigan Athletic	45	59	95
2	Blackburn Rovers	45	41	93
3	Shrewsbury Town	45	22	87
4	Rotherham United	45	19	76
5	Scunthorpe United	45	15	73
6	Charlton Athletic	45	8	71
7	Plymouth Argyle	45	2	68
8	Peterborough United	45	10	64
9	Portsmouth	45	-1	63
10	Southend United	45	-4	62
11	Bradford City	45	-10	62
12	Blackpool	45	6	60
13	Bristol Rovers	45	-6	58
14	Doncaster Rovers	45	1	56
15	Oxford United	45	-4	56
16	Fleetwood Town	45	-11	54
17	Gillingham	45	-8	53
18	Walsall	45	-11	52
19	AFC Wimbledon	45	-11	52
20	Oldham Athletic	45	-17	49
21	Rochdale	45	-9	48
22	Northampton Town	45	-34	46
23	MK Dons	45	-27	42
24R	Bury	45	-30	35



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Building a strong new team

By George Welch

KARL Robinson's rebuilding job at Oxford United is under way.

The U's boss announced this week that seven players have been told they can leave when their contracts expire this summer.

United secured their League One status with a 2-1 win at home to Rochdale on Saturday, meaning Robinson's shake-up can begin.

The club held talks with some players before the weekend and discussions took place with others on Monday.

Robinson has now unveiled the fate of those out of contract players.

As expected, United have taken up options to extend the contracts of captain Curtis Nelson and winger Rob Hall, the latter working with the gaffer at MK Dons.

Left back Ricardinho and defender Sam Long have been offered new one-year deals while midfielder Joe Rothwell will also be offered a new contract.

A clause in veteran goalkeeper Scott Shearer's contract has been extended, earning him a new one-year deal.

Both Charlie Raglan and Kane Hemmings, on loan at Port Vale and Mansfield Town respectively, still have time on their contracts and will return to the club this summer.

However, Agon Mehmeti, Wes Thomas, Aaron Martin, Dwight Tiendalli, Mike Williamson, James Roberts and Josh Ashby will all leave the club when their contracts expire at the end of the season.

Gino van Kessel will also depart with United not taking up an option to turn his loan spell into a permanent deal.

Injured midfielder Ivo Pekalski, who has spent a frustrating season in the treatment room, has another year on his contract but has been told he is free to find another club over the summer.

The club have not commented on the futures of loanees Alex Mowatt,

Todd Kane, Ashley Smith-Brown and Isaac Buckley-Ricketts.

Robinson, who has his sights set on the play-offs next season, said: "We are delighted to have made offers to the players we want to keep and who we see as part of the rebuilding but obviously there were some difficult decisions to be made and some tough conversations."

"They have worked so hard and I can honestly say that everything was done with respect and done the right way and we wish every one of the players leaving all the best for the future."

"The aim is to build a strong new team for what I am sure will be a very exciting season."



Changes: Karl Robinson has started to make the team his own having secured League One status

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